HAMILTON'S SOCIAL LANDSCAPE

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SPRC
SOCIAL PLANNING & RESEARCH COUNCIL OF HAMILTON

Commissioned by the United Way of Burlington and Greater Hamilton

United Way of Burlington & Greater Hamilton

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Hamilton has seen important economic and political changes over the last decades, such as the shrinking of the manufacturing workforce and the amalgamation of the regional municipalities into one city. During this time, there have also been many broad social trends that have affected Hamilton. This changing social landscape is the focus of this report.

In the last few years, a number of efforts have been undertaken to deepen the analysis and understanding of social trends in Hamilton[1]. Hamilton's Social Landscape builds upon the information presented in many of these reports and tries to avoid duplication as much as possible. This report focuses on a few key socio-economic variables that are of special concern to social and urban planners and social service providers. The report highlights the recent historical trend of these variables along with comparisons to other communities.

This report focuses primarily on groups or social issues for which data is already collected and relatively accessible. There are many groups of Hamilton residents for which there is a scarcity of data, but yet still require attention by the community to improve conditions for all. These would include many significant segments of our society including: the lesbian, bisexual, gay, transgender and queer community, precarious workers, temporary foreign workers and grandparents raising their grandchildren, among others. Readers are invited to examine other reports for information on groups and variables not discussed in this report.

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[1] Among the important reports are the following:

1) *Social and Health Issues Report* Published in 2005 by the City of Hamilton. http://www.hamilton.ca/HealthandSocialServices/Research/SHIR.htm

2) *Hamilton Diversity Scan* Published by the Hamilton Community Foundation in 2008. http://www.hcf.on.ca/pdf/diversityscan.pdf

3) *Incomes and Poverty in Hamilton* Originally published in 2006 and updated in 2009. Produced by the SPRC with financial support from the United Way. http://sprc.hamilton.on.ca/Poverty/Poverty.php

4) *Community Profiles* of each of the former municipalities within the City of Hamilton. Commissioned by the United Way and produced by the SPRC in 2008 and updated in 2009. http://sprc.hamilton.on.ca/Reports.php

5) *Women and Poverty in Hamilton* Produced by the Social Planning and Research Council with financial support from the United Way in 2010: http://sprc.hamilton.on.ca/Poverty/WomenAndPoverty.php

6) *Demographic Profile* A technical report part of *The Playbook: A Framework for Human Services Planning in Hamilton*. Published by the City of Hamilton in 2010. http://hamilton.ca/HealthandSocialServices/SocialServices/humanservicesplan

7) *Code Red: Where you live affects your health* Published by the Hamilton Spectator in 2010. http://www.thespec.com/topic/codered

8) *Adequate, Suitable, Affordable? Housing in Hamilton* Produced by the Social Planning and Research Council with financial support from the United Way in 2010. http://sprc.hamilton.on.ca/Reports/pdf/Adequate-Suitable-Affordable-Report-on-Housing-in-Hamilton.pdf

9) *Vital Signs* Published by the Hamilton Community Foundation in 2010. http://www.hamiltonvitalsigns.ca/

10) *Seeking Better Outcomes for Youth in Hamilton* Commissioned by the United Way and produced by the SPRC in 2010. http://sprc.hamilton.on.ca/Reports.php

1.1 Census data issues

Most of the data presented in this report is gathered by Statistics Canada through the Census of Population conducted every five years. The census is considered the gold standard of data collection methods.

> "In Canada, the census is the only reliable source of detailed data for small groups (such as lone-parent families, ethnic groups, industrial and occupational categories and immigrants) and for areas as small as a city neighbourhood or as large as the country itself. Because the Canadian census is collected every five years and the questions are similar, it is possible to compare changes that have occurred in the make-up of Canada's population over time."[2]

Until recent changes to the census, eighty-percent of households received the short questionnaire, which in 2006 had eight questions, including sex, date of birth, marital status, and mother tongue. All residents of Canada must answer these questions during the census, no matter where they live, whether in private dwellings or "collective dwellings" (which includes rooming houses, prisons, shelters, nursing homes, etc). In the case of residents living in institutions, administrative records are often used to answer questions if the information cannot be determined from the resident.

In previous census cycles, twenty percent of households received the mandatory long questionnaire which in 2006 included an additional 53 questions on a wide variety of topics including dwelling characteristics, income and earnings, labour force participation, education, ethnic origin, place of birth, etc. These questions were only sent to private households. This means that detailed census data (including poverty rates) are not collected for populations living in collective dwellings, such as seniors living in nursing homes, agricultural workers living in work camps, individuals living in shelters or even rooming houses.

While the 2006 census data presented in this report is the most recent data available, it nonetheless dates from almost five years ago. The value in the presentation of the data in this report is principally in the comparisons both historical and regional. Even though many social indicators will have changed since 2006, the historical perspective and benchmarks of neighbouring municipalities and regions gives a deeper perspective than just the raw data for the indicator.

The decision to change the 2011 census by the federal government will have negative impacts on any potential future editions of this report. Removing the long form from the census and putting it in a voluntary National Household Survey will mean that data from 2011 will most likely not be comparable to previous census data, due to methodological issues. There are also concerns that data will no longer be able to be released at the neighbourhood level, due to small sample sizes and response bias.

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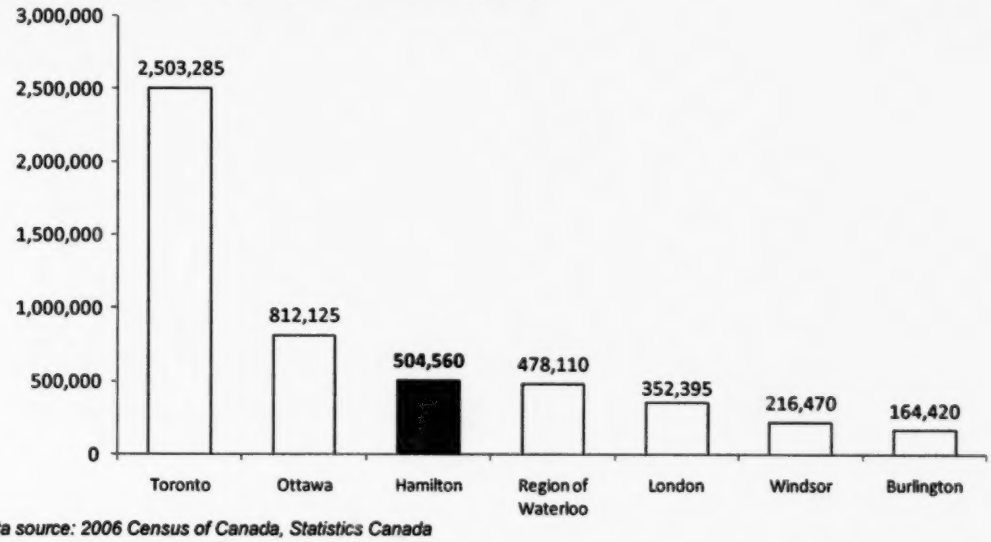
[2] http://www12.statcan.ca/census-recensement/2006/ref/about-apropos/faq-eng.cfm

1.2 Comparison to other cities

In this report, we have chosen to highlight data from other jurisdictions along with Hamilton data to give broader context to the analysis. The population sizes of the selected communities are shown in Chart 1. In choosing the communities for comparison, no single criterion was established. Rather, each city or region was included for its own reasons. Some of the general similarities of each community with Hamilton are the following: the City of Ottawa and the Region of Waterloo both have dense urban areas and large farmland areas; the City of Windsor has a large manufacturing employment base; the cities of Toronto and Ottawa were both amalgamated in the last decade; the City of London and the Region of Waterloo have relatively close population sizes to Hamilton; Burlington is of course Hamilton's neighbour and shares workforce commuting patterns. But as demonstrated throughout this report, Hamilton is distinct from each community in numerous ways.

Chart 1. Population of selected communities, 2006



Data source: 2006 Census of Canada, Statistics Canada

Occasionally, data presented in this report is not available for each of these specific communities, so instead data will be shown for the regional area encompassing the communities in question. Specifically, Halton Region will be shown when data is not available for Burlington, the Middlesex Census Division for London, the Kitchener Census Metropolitan Area for the Region of Waterloo, and the Essex Census Division for Windsor.

1.3 Maps

This report includes eight maps to dig deeper into social trends in Hamilton and explore the diversity of Hamilton's neighbourhoods. Many of the maps include both a range of colours to indicate the proportion of a given indicator within each neighbourhood and a circle or other symbol, and its varying size represents the size of the population in question in each neighbourhood. Having both of these layers on the maps helps answer two important questions: where is the area with the greatest proportion of a given indicator, and which are the neighbourhoods with the largest number of residents belonging to a given category. Often these two questions may lead to the same neighbourhoods. But in other cases a neighbourhood with a large population may have a small proportion of seniors for example, but because the population of the neighbourhood is so large, the actual number of seniors may be much higher than a neighbourhood with a large proportion of seniors but a smaller number of total residents. Each of these ways of looking at population data are useful in different circumstances, and that is why the maps attempt to convey as much of this information as possible.

As discussed earlier, this report has tried to avoid duplicating information about Hamilton that may have already been published by other organizations. This is the main reason maps were not provided for all indicators in this report. Statistics Canada has published a series of thematic maps on its website and is available to anyone who would like to see maps of these specific populations in Hamilton:

- Children
- Seniors
- Lone parents
- Recent immigrants
- Visible minorities
- Proportion of renters and owners spending 30% or more on shelter costs.

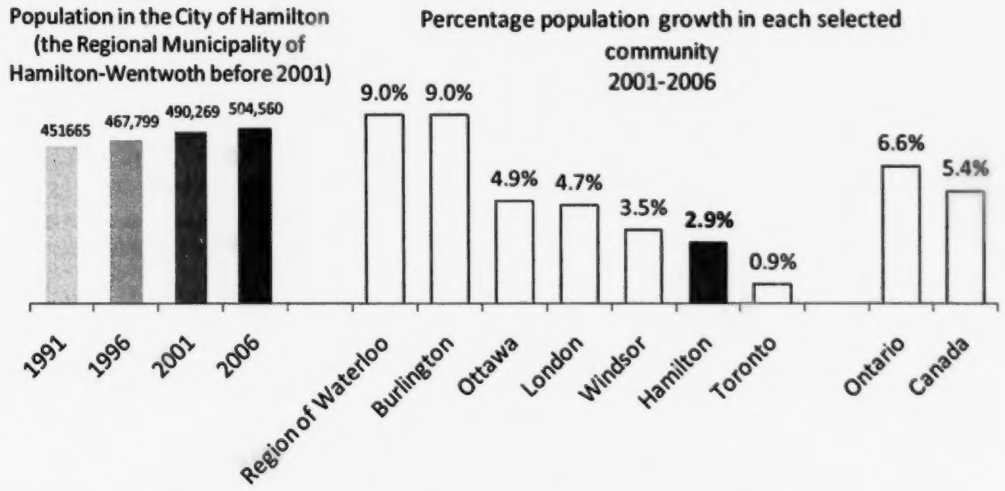
All of these maps and others are available at the following address:
http://geodepot.statcan.gc.ca/2006/13011619/2008051301200903130116l9_05-eng.jsp?geo=Hamilton&serie=CMA&callingName=2008051301200903130116l9_05-eng.jsp&fileName=&Submit=Next#theme

In addition, the SPRC's *Community Profiles* report includes maps for most of these same indicators for each of Hamilton's former municipalities. The SPRC's *Incomes and Poverty in Hamilton* report also includes maps of the distribution of poverty in Hamilton, including a map of child poverty. Both of these reports are available in the reports section of the SPRC's website.

2.0 POPULATION GROWTH

The growth in Hamilton's population, at just under 3% from 2001 to 2006, has been much lower than most other comparable cities, only higher than Toronto's (0.9%) and was less than half the average for Ontario (6.6%) (Chart 2).

Chart 2. Recent population growth



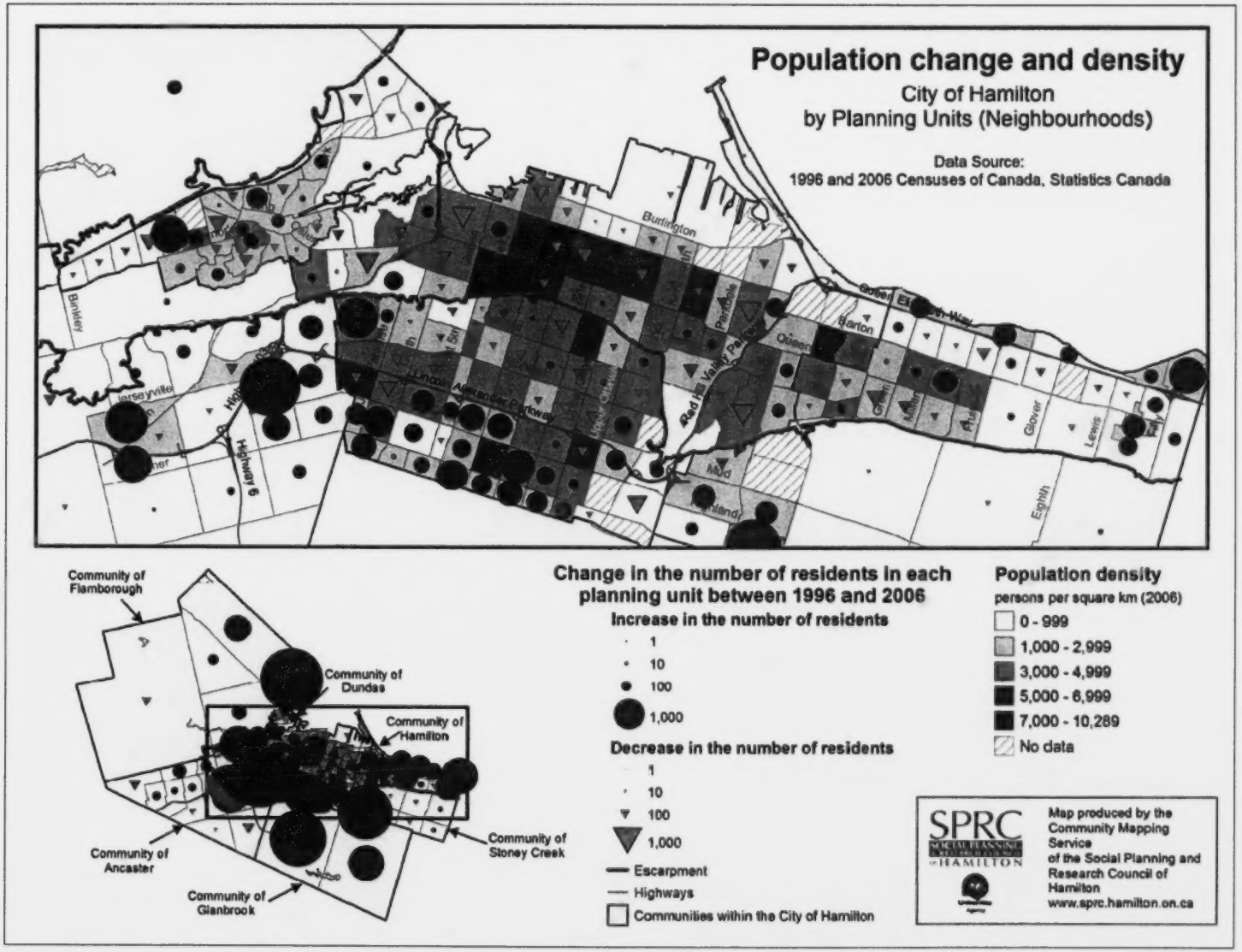
Data source: 1996, 2001 and 2006 Censuses of Canada, Statistics Canada

The SPRC's Community Profiles reports showed that most of the City's growth has been in the suburban areas, such as Ancaster and Glanbrook, while the more densely populated communities of Dundas and Hamilton had almost stable populations in this time period. Map 1 on the following page gives a more detailed view of population density by neighbourhood.

This map shows that the majority of Hamilton's population growth has been in the suburban areas where new subdivisions have been built and attracted families to live there. This is especially evident on the south Mountain, Waterdown and parts of Ancaster. In contrast, most of the older neighbourhoods in the lower city and on the Mountain north of the Linc have experienced population declines. Not surprisingly these population declines have had a negative effect on many neighbourhoods. One major example is school closures which is discussed in Chapter 3.

But population declines are not the rule in all of Hamilton's older neighbourhoods.
In the lower city, three of the four neighbourhoods with the highest population densities have experienced large increases in the number of residents (Durand, Corktown and Riverdale). These high density neighbourhoods attract new residents in part because they are relatively well served by transit, businesses and other amenities. This makes these neighbourhoods more walkable than other neighbourhoods, which adds to their attractiveness. The city has begun taking policy steps to try to create the same conditions in other neighbourhoods so that they also become "complete communities".

Map 1.


Population change and density
City of Hamilton
by Planning Units (Neighbourhoods)
Data Source:
1996 and 2006 Censuses of Canada, Statistics Canada
Burlington
Barton
Queen
Glover
Lewis
Eighth
Upper Ottawa
Red Hill Valley Parkway
Parkdale
Mud
Highway 6
Community of Flamborough
Community of Dundas
Community of Hamilton
Community of Ancaster
Community of Glanbrook
Community of Stoney Creek
Change in the number of residents in each planning unit between 1996 and 2006
Increase in the number of residents
1
10
100
1,000
Decrease in the number of residents
1
10
100
1,000
Escarpment
Highways
Communities within the City of Hamilton
Population density
persons per square km (2006)
0 - 999
1,000 - 2,999
3,000 - 4,999
5,000 - 6,999
7,000 - 10,289
No data
SPRC
Map produced by the Community Mapping Service of the Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton
www.sprc.hamilton.on.ca

2.1 Future population growth

The provincial Ministry of Finance prepares population projections for Census Divisions across Ontario on an annual basis. These projections are principally based on historical patterns of growth, immigration, birth and mortality rates. The most recent projection was completed in the spring of 2010 and shows that Hamilton will have below average growth for Ontario, and second lowest among our selected comparable communities (Chart 3). While Hamilton's growth outpaced Toronto's in the 2001-2006 period, the projections show that the trend will reverse and that Toronto will grow more quickly than Hamilton in the coming decades. The projections show that Hamilton's neighbour, Halton Region, will have more than five times the rate of growth as Hamilton, on average 3.7% per year, compared to Hamilton's 0.8% growth per year. The projections also predict that the Region of Waterloo's population has this year (2011) become larger than the city of Hamilton.

Among the factors affecting the lower projected growth rate in Hamilton are the higher proportion of seniors in our population and a lower than average rate of newcomer immigrants settling in Hamilton. One way the City of Hamilton is responding to these challenges is the creation of the Immigration Partnership Council which in 2010 adopted a *Hamilton Immigration Strategy and Action Plan* to guide the city and its partners to help build a more inclusive city that will attract and retain a greater share of immigrants to Canada.

In contrast to the Ministry of Finance Population projections, Ontario's Ministry of Infrastructure has also released what could be termed "population targets" for 21 cities, regions and counties within the Greater Golden Horseshoe (GGH) area of Southern Ontario. These population forecasts are based on the view that the region cannot continue to grow in the same way that it has over the last few decades:

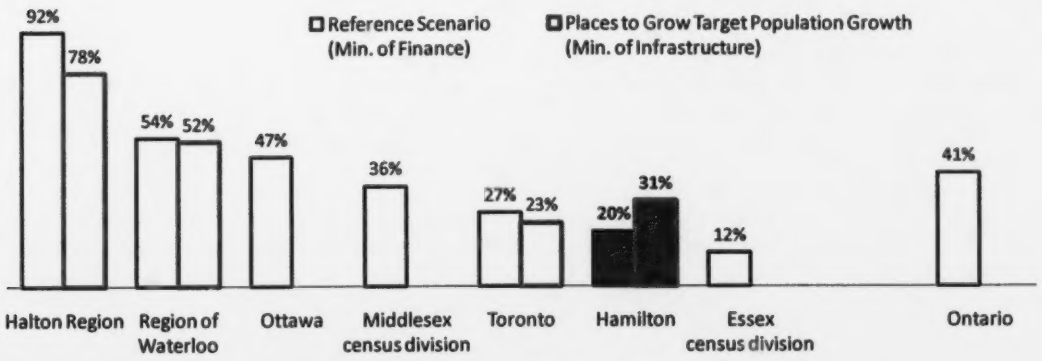
> Over the next quarter century, communities within the GGH will continue to experience the benefits that come with growth, including: vibrant, diversified communities and economies; new and expanded community services; and arts, culture and recreation facilities. However without properly managing growth, communities will continue to experience the negative aspects associated with rapid growth, such as increased traffic congestion, deteriorating air and quality, and the disappearance of agricultural lands and natural resources. (*Places to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe*, 2006)[3]

The distribution of population growth within a city is largely influenced by the locations to build new homes chosen by developers, who generally prefer greenfields (open, undeveloped land). The new provincial legislation, the *Places to Grow Act*, prioritizes intensification of population in already built up areas and will have some impact on the distribution of population growth within Hamilton in the coming decades. The population targets in *the Places to Grow Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe Area* also take into account that the historical patterns of growth in GTA that form much of the basis of the Ministry of Finance's projections cannot continue because cities like Mississauga, Oakville, and Burlington are quickly running out land for new subdivisions.

Chart 3 combines both the Ministry of Finance's population projections as well as the Ministry of Infrastructure's population targets in the *Places to Grow* growth plan for the region. Among this report's set of comparable communities, Hamilton is the only community expected to intensify its population growth substantially as compared to what growth might look like without any policy changes ("Reference Scenario" published by the Ministry of Finance). Among the entire set of communities within the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTAH), Durham Region, which includes Oshawa and Pickering, is the only other community expected to increase its growth from the reference scenario to become a bigger node within the GTAH.

[3] http://www.placestogrow.ca/images/pdfs/FPLAN-ENG-WEB-ALL.pdf

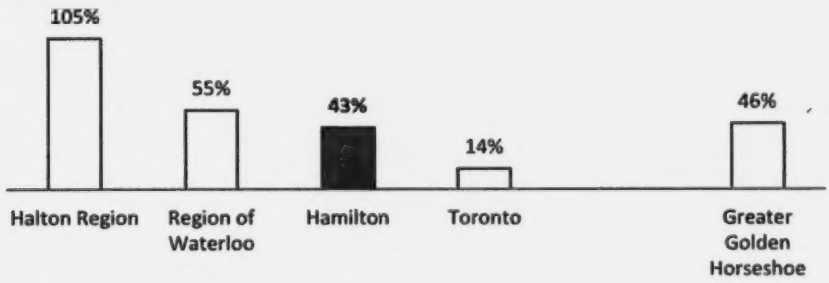
Chart 3. Projected population growth by selected census divisions, 2006-2031



Data sources:
Reference Scenario: Ministry of Finance, Ontario Population Projections Update 2008-2036, Spring 2010, based on the 2006 Census
Places to Grow Target Population Growth: Ministry of Infrastructure, Places to Grow Growth Plan for Greater Golden Horseshoe (2006)

The *Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe* also places emphasis on creating more employment nodes within the region in part to make outlining areas more attractive to live near and to reduce the amount of commuting by employees and the accompanying traffic congestion. Chart 4 shows that Hamilton's expected employment growth will be 43%, which is just below the average for the Greater Golden Horseshoe area.

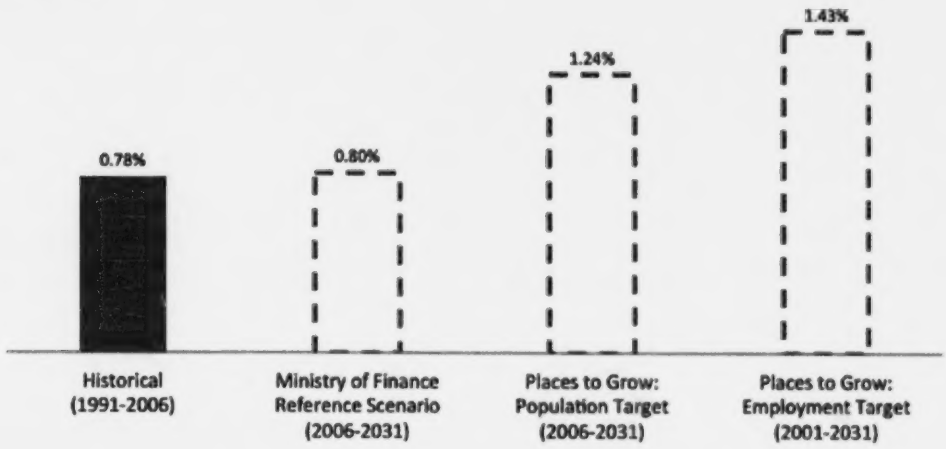
Chart 4. Expected employment growth by selected communities within the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2001-2031



Data source: Ministry of Infrastructure, Places to Grow Growth Plan for Greater Golden Horseshoe (2006)

Combining into one chart Hamilton's historical growth and different forecasts (Chart 5) shows the *Place to Grow* growth plan targets an average population growth of 1.24% per year for Hamilton, compared to a targeted average employment growth of 1.43% per year. If these targets are met and employment grows faster than population in the years to come, there may be fewer Hamiltonians who need to commute outside of the city for work.

Chart 5. Comparisons of average annual growth (historical and forecasted), City of Hamilton



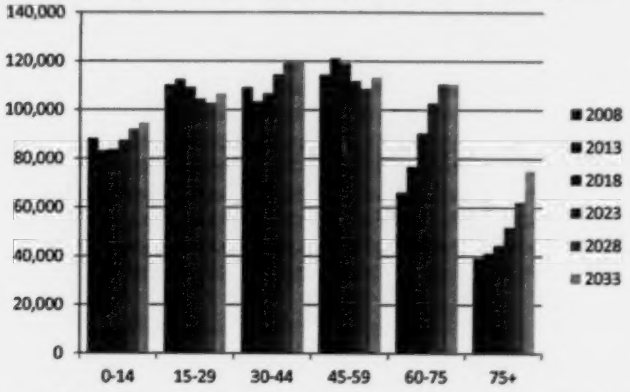
Data sources:
1991 and 2006 Censuses of Canada, Statistics Canada
Reference Scenario: Ministry of Finance, Ontario Population Projections Update 2008-2036, Spring 2010, based on the 2006 Census
Places to Grow Target Population and Employment Growth: Ministry of Infrastructure, Places to Grow Growth Plan for Greater Golden Horseshoe (2006)

2.2 Future growth by age groups

The Ministry of Finance projections are the only ones that include forecasts for the size of various age groups. But as described above, these projections are based on "if nothing changes" assumptions, which may not be valid, as the province is pushing municipalities to achieve different population targets that the Ministry of Finance's "reference scenario". The Ministry of Finance age group projections however are still informative to give a general picture.

Chart 6 shows that the Ministry of Finance's projection for Hamilton's senior population is that it will grow by 93% by 2033. This is due to the aging of the baby boomer cohort including the aging of immigrants who arrived in previous decades. In contrast, the Ministry expects much more modest growth in the other age groups. Their predictions mean that by 2033 the proportion of seniors in Hamilton's population will rise to 24% (currently 15%). In contrast the proportion of children under age 15 will decrease to 15% (currently 17%). If, however, the city of Hamilton achieves the *Places to Grow* targets for population and employment growth, this will mean Hamilton will have attracted more working age adults, which will reduce the overall proportion of seniors in its population. But the total number of seniors may be as large or even larger even if the *Places to Grow* targets are met.

Chart 6. Projected population growth by age groups, City of Hamilton, 2008-2033

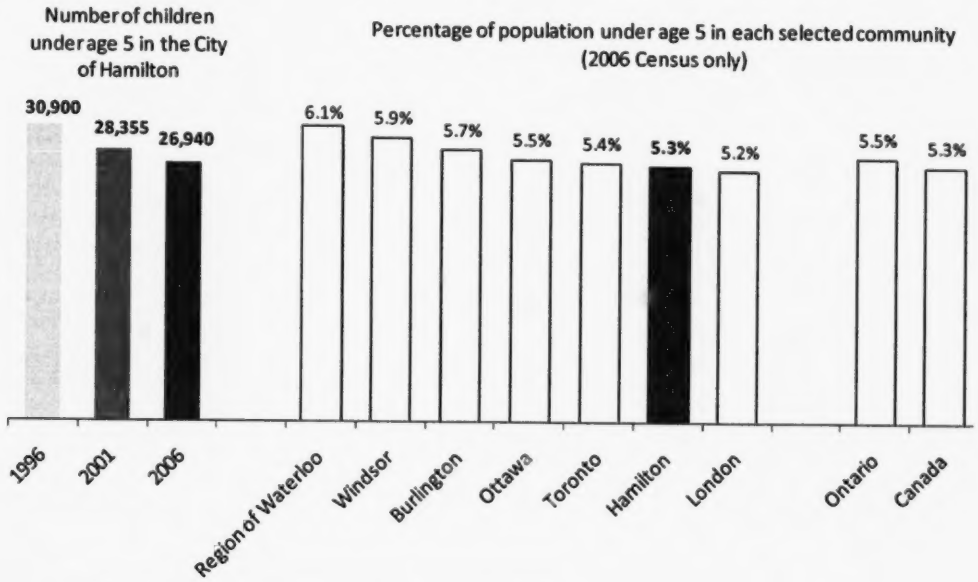


Data source: Ministry of Finance: Ontario Population Projections Update 2008-2036, Spring 2010 based on the 2006 Census

3.0 CHILDREN

One factor that is contributing to Hamilton's slower population growth is the declining number of children. The population of children under five years of age has decreased by almost 13% in the 1996-2006 period, from almost 31,000 children to just under 27,000 (Chart 7). Among comparable communities, Hamilton's proportion of children under five (5.3%) in its population is only higher than London (5.2%) and lower than the Ontario average (5.5%).

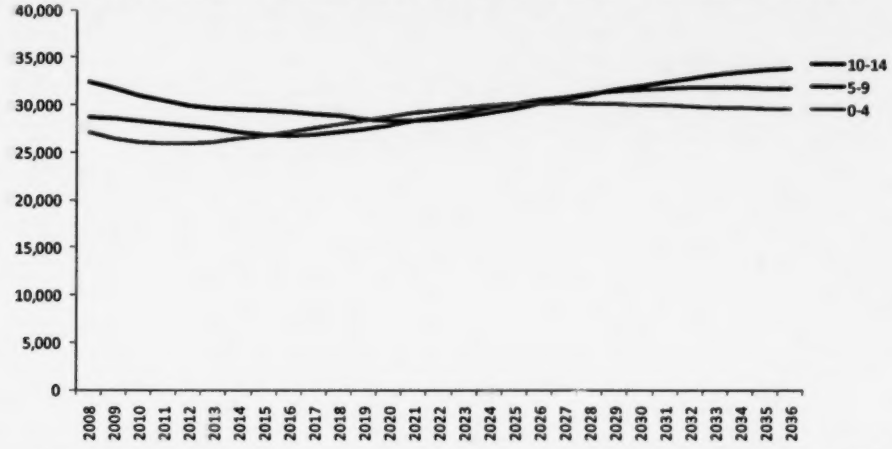
Chart 7. Young children



Data source: 1996, 2001 and 2006 Censuses of Canada, Statistics Canada

The most recent population projections from the Ministry of Finance forecast that the decline in the number of children will end in the next decade and that after that Hamilton should see a slight increase in the number of children by 2030 and beyond (Chart 8). If, however, the city of Hamilton achieves the *Places to Grow* targets for population and employment growth, this will mean Hamilton will have attracted more families with children, which will increase the overall proportion of children in its population.

Chart 8. Projected population of children by age groups, City of Hamilton, 2008-2036

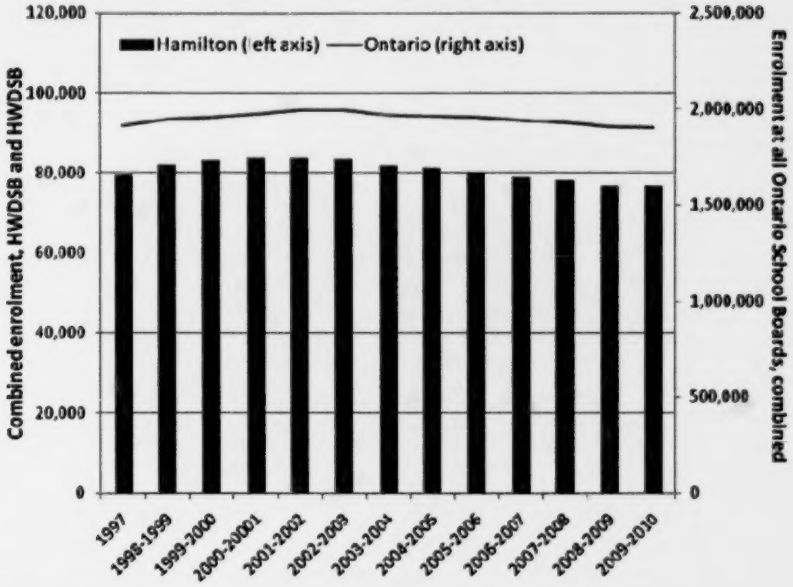


Data source: Ministry of Finance Ontario Population Projections Update 2008-2036, Spring 2010 based on the 2006 Census

3.1 School enrolment

One of the major consequences of the declining number of children has been declining enrolment in schools. The enrolment in publicly-funded schools in Hamilton (Chart 9) shows that in the early part of the last 13 years, enrolment was increasing, but after peaking at just over 84,000 students in 2001-2002, there has been a drop of over 7,000 students when compared to the 2009-2010 school year. This pattern is seen in the Ontario enrolment figures as well. It is important to note that these figures do not include enrolment in private schools.

Chart 9. School enrolment, Hamilton and Ontario, 1997-2010

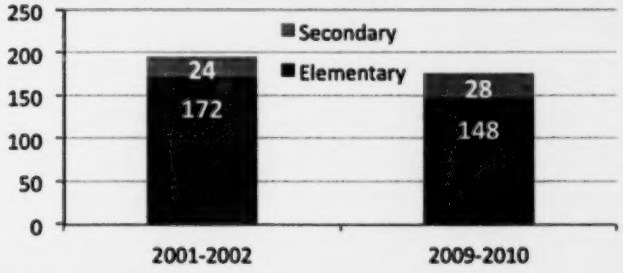


Data source: School Board Funding Projections for the 2010–11 School Year, Ministry of Education

3.1.1. School closures in Hamilton

Because school board funding is tied to the number of students registered, the most important consequence of this trend has been the closing of schools in the city. As illustrated by Chart 10, Hamilton school boards now have 20 fewer schools combined than in 2001-2002. This data does not include private schools, which have grown in number in this time period. In fact, the increasing enrolment in private schools and the increasing popularity of home-schooling are also part of the reason the publicly-funded school boards have seen declines in their enrolments in Ontario. The Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB) has positioned its "Programs of Choice" schools in some ways to combat this phenomenon. School boards across Ontario, such as the HWDSB is counting on magnet schools with special programs in sports, arts, social justice, and other specialized areas to attract students from across the city and increase enrolment at schools that might otherwise be considered for closure.

Chart 10. Number of schools (public and Catholic), City of Hamilton, 2001-2010



Data source: City of Hamilton, Ministry of Education

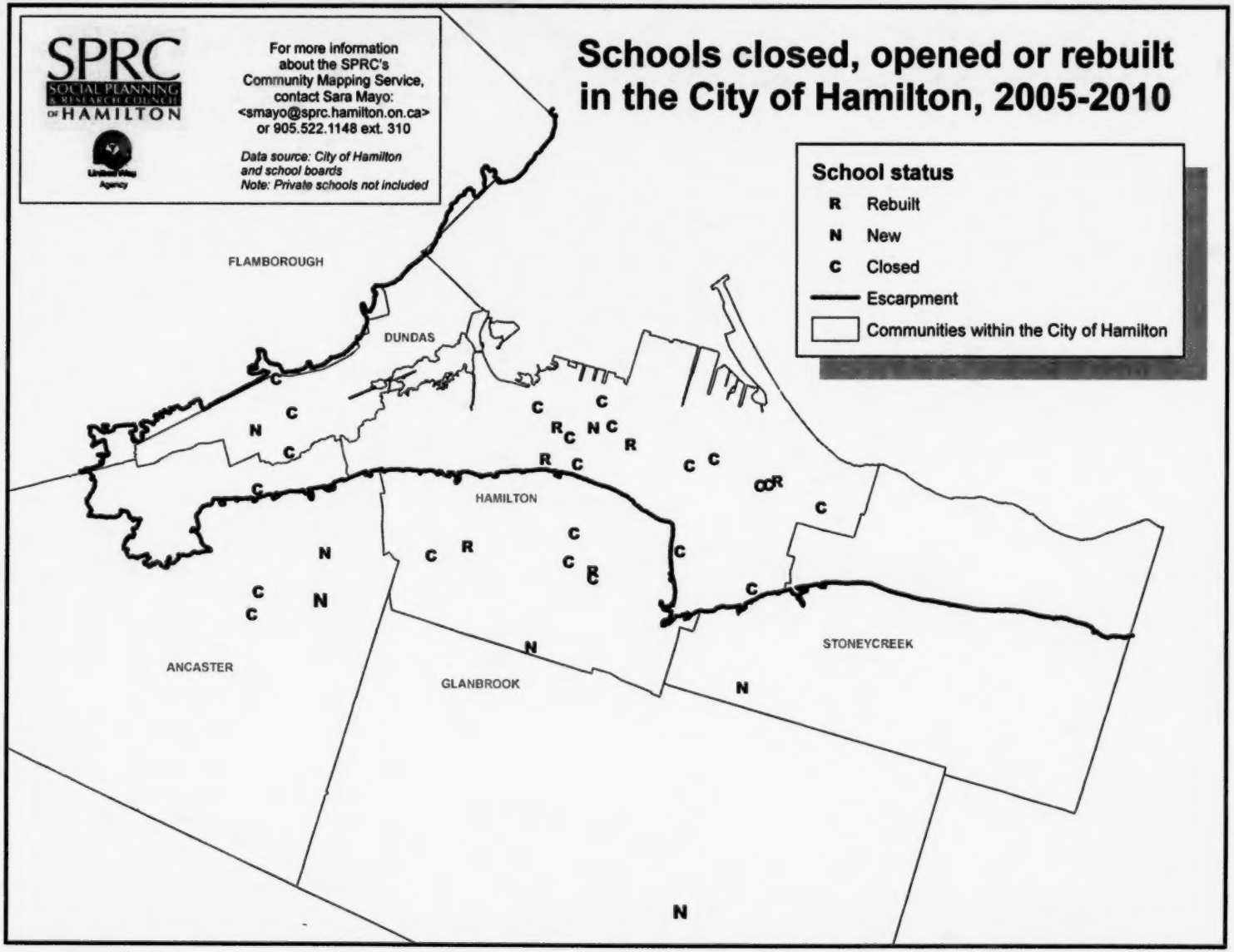
The map of schools opened and closed in the last four years shows that the portion of the city below the escarpment (including Dundas) has had 16 schools closed or planned to be closed, with two new schools opened and four schools rebuilt at the same locations. Above the escarpment six schools have been closed, five new schools opened and two schools were rebuilt (Map 2). The areas in which schools have closed are usually areas with low or negative population growth, but many are also some of the areas with the highest concentration of poverty.

East Hamilton has seen the most dramatic reduction in the number of schools. Between Wellington St and Centennial Parkway, 11 schools have been closed in the last six years, with three modern schools replacing them (rebuilt or new school added). The pressures to close East Hamilton schools are continuing, with the recent announcement that Parkview and Delta High Schools are in jeopardy of closing in 2013. This would leave Sir Winston Churchill (near Parkdale) as the HWDSB's only high school between Bay Street and the Red Hill Valley. The slow or negative population growth in many East Hamilton neighbourhoods has led the mathematical case for closing these schools. But high schools are enormously strategic assets to neighbourhoods and with the city and its partners currently investing in neighbourhood revitalization strategies, many residents are asking the HWDSB to find another way to reconfigure its schools portfolio and budget problems. The balance between major growth in the suburbs due to urban sprawl and landmark schools in low growth historical neighbourhoods is a challenge common to many schools boards across Canada. Ultimately, a key part of any solution is urban planning that takes into account the needs of the entire city population, including residents in lower income neighbourhoods whose voices are not often heard at planning meetings, as well as the full costs of growth in new areas.

School closings have a major impact in the neighbourhoods in which they were located. While children often benefit by attending the newer larger schools with better facilities and more programs, the extra distance in their daily commutes generally can have a negative impact on children and their families. With schools now further away from each other, more children are being driven or bussed to school, which is one of the many causes of increasing obesity rates among children. In addition, the school's community development role and anchor for community activities is often lost when a school is closed. Some schools are torn down completely while others are sold to developers who have turned them into condominium housing.

By law, schools must sell their vacant buildings and land at market prices to fund the construction of new schools. More recently Ontario changed the regulations to order schools to offer to sell their real estate to public institutions (including other school boards, universities and colleges and the city) at market prices before private developers. The former Robert Land School on Wentworth Avenue North is an example of where local community groups collaborated to purchase a recently closed school and turn into a community centre, now named the Eva Rothwell Centre. This is one way that neighbourhoods can prevent the entire loss of community assets when school boards make decisions that they cannot otherwise control.

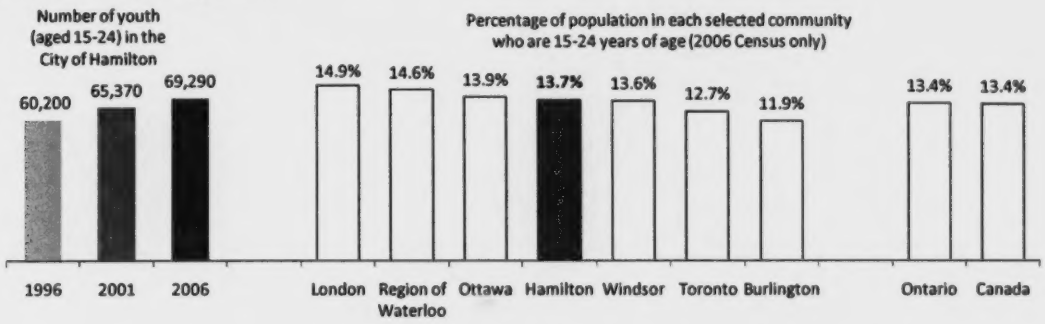
Map 2.


SPRC
SOCIAL PLANNING & RESEARCH COUNCIL OF HAMILTON
United Way Agency
For more information about the SPRC's Community Mapping Service, contact Sara Mayo: <smayo@sprc.hamilton.on.ca> or 905.522.1148 ext. 310
Data source: City of Hamilton and school boards
Note: Private schools not included
Schools closed, opened or rebuilt in the City of Hamilton, 2005-2010
School status
R Rebuilt
N New
C Closed
Escarpment
Communities within the City of Hamilton
FLAMBOROUGH
DUNDAS
HAMILTON
ANCASTER
GLANBROOK
STONEYCREEK

4.0 YOUTH

Among the fast growing groups in Hamilton has been the youth population. Between 2001 and 2006, the youth population grew by 6%, over twice as fast as the general population (which rose just 2.9%). Almost 70,000 young people between the ages of 15 and 24 lived in Hamilton according to the last census (Chart 11). Youth made up 13.7% of the total population, just slightly above the provincial average. Population projections predict the size of the youth population will soon stabilize, but the issues youth face will continue to be complex and require special attention.

Chart 11. Youth aged 15-24



The 2010 SPRC report, *Seeking Better Outcomes for Youth in Hamilton*, reveals a youth population profile that is complex and varied. It points to a series of eight critical issues that have a powerful influence on the healthy development of youth. These issues are poverty, early school leaving, employment, disconnection from family, community and services, homelessness, discrimination, mental health issues and substance use.

Poverty
In 2005, the rate of poverty for youth in Hamilton was 21% compared to 18.1% for the general population. While the poverty rate is relatively equal between male and female youth, other populations of young people face higher rates. Newcomer youth face the highest poverty rates: 55.2% of youth who arrived in Canada between 2001 and 2006 live in poverty. Visible minority youth also experience high poverty rates with almost 40% living in poor families.

Early school leaving
In 2006, the percentage of youth in Hamilton between the ages of 15 and 24 who were not attending school was 38% compared to 35% in Ontario as a whole. The Hamilton Spectator's Code Red Series showed that high school drop-out rates varied tremendously with the city, with the highest rates being in areas with the highest poverty rates, two issues closely intertwined.

Employment
In Hamilton, the unemployment rate for youth is two times that of the entire population of the City. More than 16% of the total workforce is made up of youth who live in a low income bracket, suggesting that youth who live in poor families are more likely to work. Newcomer youth who have arrived in Hamilton between 2001 and 2006 are less likely to be participating in the labour force than the overall youth population. Youth of color also face lower than average rates of participation in the labour force, however, they face approximately the same level of unemployment.

Disconnection from family, community and services
Local research has identified that there is a lack of youth engagement in three critical areas in Hamilton: family, community and services. Some factors that contribute to youth disconnection are family poverty level, family structure, parental unemployment, welfare receipt, parental education, age and

race/ethnicity. Youth disconnection is tied to negative outcomes such as poverty, early school leaving, mental health and substance use issues, criminality, young parenthood and lack of employment.

Homelessness
Youth homelessness is considerably different from adult homelessness. The cause of adult homelessness is generally socio-economic factors that impact on the ability to afford housing. For youth, homelessness can almost entirely be attributed to major family conflict and breakdown. A trend suggested in youth Notre Dame shelter usage data from 2004 to 2008 is that young people are accessing the shelter more often but for shorter stays. It has also been identified that the number of young men accessing the shelter has dropped by 10% while the number of women has risen 10%.

Discrimination
Youth are stereotyped and discriminated against on the basis of their age and preconceived judgments. One of the most serious areas in which Hamilton's youth face discrimination is in housing. Young people are discriminated against by landlords and face difficulty in finding safe and affordable housing options. The issue of age discrimination often intersects with other forms of oppression, namely racism, gender, sexuality, street-involvement, and socio-economic status. Youth identify feeling that popular culture negatively portrays them as violent and aggressive. These perceptions are found to be persistent in Hamilton even though the majority of youth are active participants in their community and school.

Mental health issues
A young person's experiences of mental health are affected by many factors including personality, family life, socio-economic situations and access to treatment. In 2005, Hamilton youth ages 12 to 19 were twice as likely to rate their mental health as fair or poor than the overall population of youth in Ontario. In addition, youth in Hamilton face struggles in accessing supports. According to the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, Hamilton and Niagara have the longest wait times for youth accessing supports of any region in Ontario.

Substance use
In Hamilton, youth have higher rates of substance use than the youth population of Ontario as a whole. While alcohol is the most frequently used substance, Hamilton youth are also more likely than the provincial average to use other drugs including cannabis, hallucinogens, stimulants, Ecstasy and cocaine. Of youth aged 12 to 19, 12.3% smoke daily or occasionally and a total of 63% youth aged 15 to 19 years have had at least one occurrence where they consumed 5 or more drinks in a single occasion within the past year.

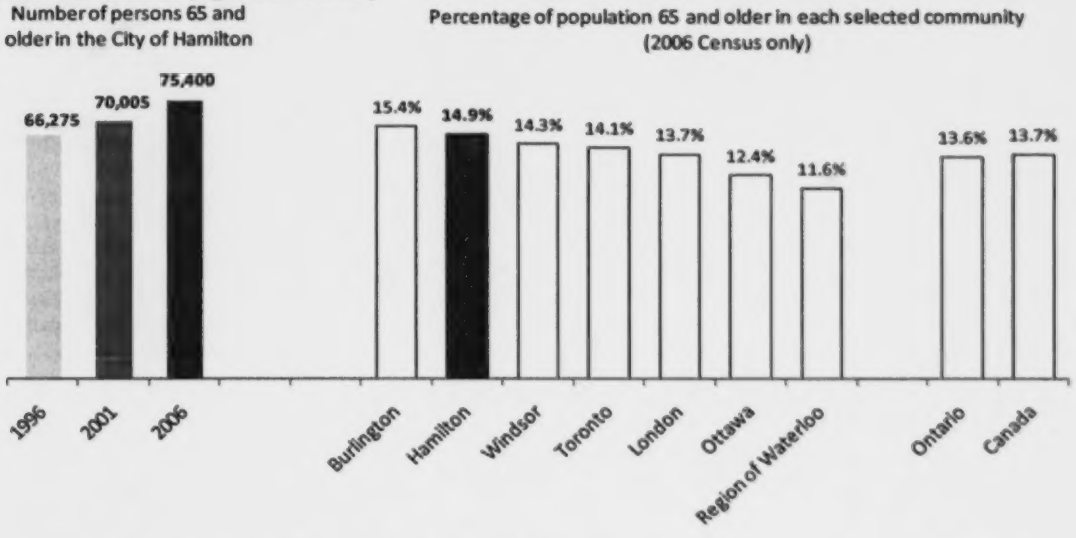
5.0 SENIORS

While the number of children in our city is in decline, the senior population is growing substantially, as it is throughout Canada. Between 1996 and 2006, Hamilton had an additional 9,125 seniors. Seniors are almost 15% of Hamilton's population, which is only lower than Burlington's proportion of seniors among the set of comparable cities (Chart 12).

The SPRC's *Community Profiles* report showed that all regions of the city are experiencing growth in their senior populations, but that some of the suburban areas such as Ancaster have the highest growth rates in seniors in part due to new seniors' residences and long term care facilities being built there.

The rapid growth of the senior population as well as the changing geographical distribution of seniors within the city will continue to be a challenge for planning infrastructure and services to meet their needs. For example, more mobile services, such as home care, meals on wheels, bookmobiles and volunteer shoppers, will be needed so that seniors can remain in their homes longer. Public transit will be in greater demand in more parts of the city as the population ages, due to older residents who cannot or chose not to drive. More respite care for caregivers will be needed, such as day programs for seniors or home care workers so that family caregivers can take regular time off. More services will also need to be tailored to the increasing diversity within Hamilton's senior population, as more recent cohorts of immigrants become older.

Chart 12. Seniors (age 65 and over)

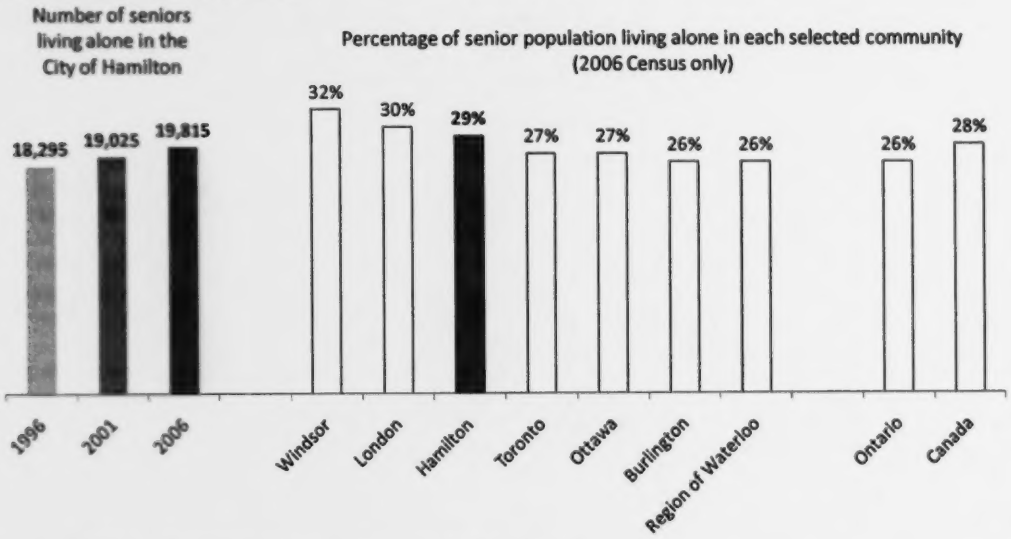


Data source: 1996, 2001 and 2006 Censuses of Canada, Statistics Canada

5.1 Seniors living alone

Seniors living alone generally have less access to support if they face illness or disability compared to seniors living with a spouse, with family or in institutional care[4]. Hamilton's rate of seniors living alone (29%) is in the mid-range of comparable cities, but both above the Ontario and Canadian rates (Chart 13). The number of seniors living alone in Hamilton has grown by over 1,000 persons since 1996, but this is a slower growth rate than the overall senior population growth.

Chart 13. Seniors living alone



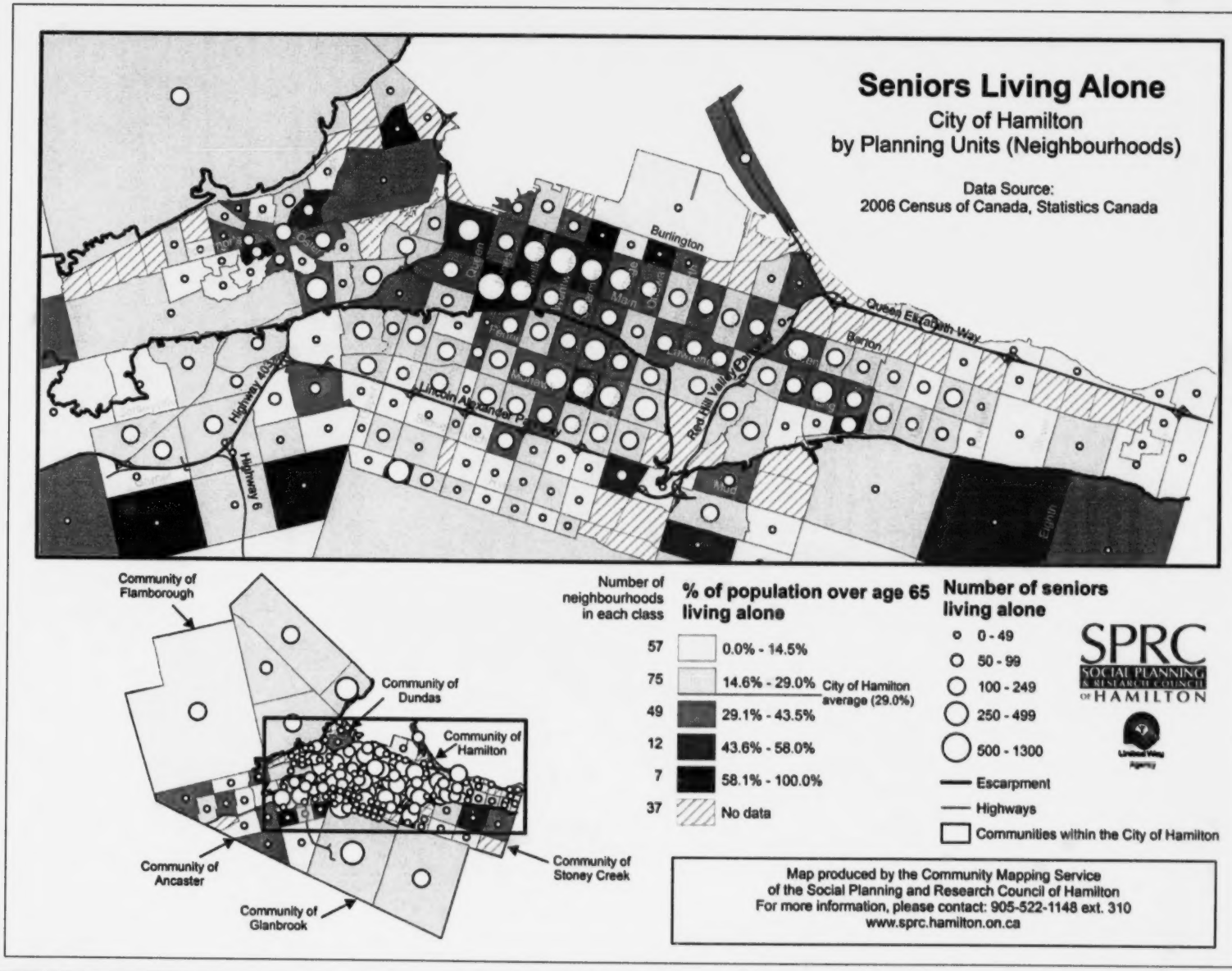
Data source: 1996, 2001 and 2006 Censuses of Canada, Statistics Canada

The distribution of seniors living alone in Hamilton shows that the neighbourhoods in the lower city have among the highest rates, although there are isolated pockets of quite high proportions of seniors living alone in other parts of the city (Map 3). Overlaid on the distribution of rates (illustrated by the colour gradient), the map also shows the differences in the number of seniors living alone (illustrated by the size of white circles). The highest numbers of seniors living alone are also in the lower city (in part a reflection of the higher densities in this area of the city). For service providers, this can be useful information for determining where support services to seniors living alone should be targeted.

This geographical distribution may reflect where services and housing types are most suited to seniors living alone, and that the "senior-friendly" features of these areas should be extended to other parts of the city. For example, in conversations with services providers in Flamborough and Dundas, they have emphasized that the housing types in many parts of their communities are not suitable for seniors, especially those living alone. With the Local Health Integration Network's focus on putting in place an "Aging at Home" strategy, adapting the existing housing stock in suburban areas to accommodate seniors may warrant particular attention.

[4] Statistics Canada (2007). *A Portrait of Seniors in Canada*. Catalogue no. 89-519.

Map 3.


Seniors Living Alone
City of Hamilton
by Planning Units (Neighbourhoods)
Data Source:
2006 Census of Canada, Statistics Canada
Burlington
Queen Elizabeth Way
Burlington
Highway 403
Highway 6
Lincoln Alexander Pkwy
Red Hill Valley Pkwy
Mud
Eighth
Community of Flamborough
Community of Dundas
Community of Hamilton
Community of Ancaster
Community of Glanbrook
Community of Stoney Creek
Number of neighbourhoods in each class
% of population over age 65 living alone
57 0.0% - 14.5%
75 14.6% - 29.0%
City of Hamilton average (29.0%)
49 29.1% - 43.5%
12 43.6% - 58.0%
7 58.1% - 100.0%
37 No data
Number of seniors living alone
0 - 49
50 - 99
100 - 249
250 - 499
500 - 1300
Escarpment
Highways
Communities within the City of Hamilton
SPRC
SOCIAL PLANNING & RESEARCH COUNCIL of HAMILTON
Map produced by the Community Mapping Service
of the Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton
For more information, please contact: 905-522-1148 ext. 310
www.sprc.hamilton.on.ca

6.0 FEMALE LONE PARENTS

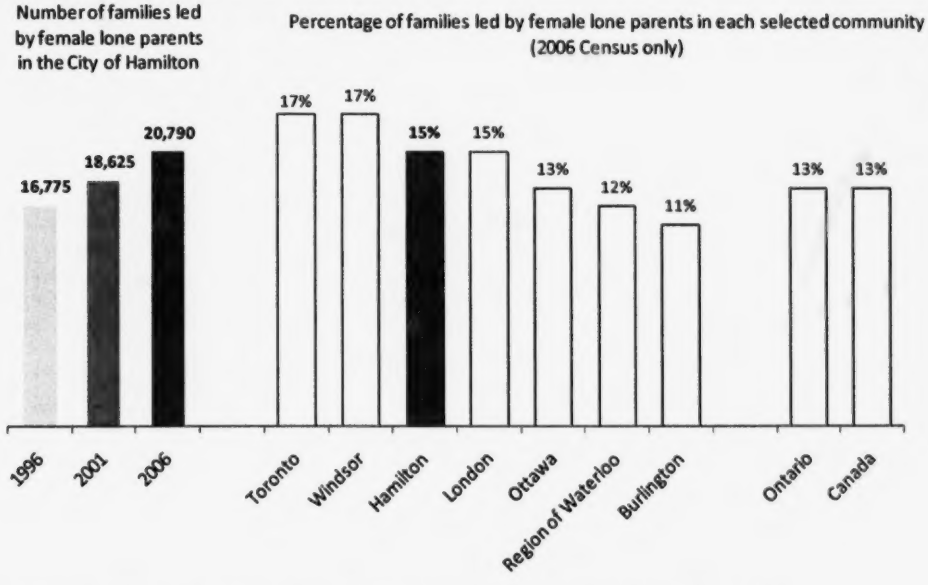
Among the different family types, female lone parents require special attention by social planners due to the difficulties of raising a family on a single income combined with the barriers often encountered by women in the labour market. Hamilton's female lone parent families with children under 18 had a poverty rate of 57% in 2006, compared to a 30% poverty rate for male lone parents living with children under 18.

Female lone parents with young children have the biggest income challenges, with 71% of the single moms in the Hamilton CMA[5] with children under six years of age living on incomes under the poverty line[6]. Since the 2006 census, the Ontario Child Tax benefit has been introduced and currently gives $1,100 per child to low income families, which will allow some families living below the poverty line to rise above the low income threshold. Recent increases to the minimum wage will also help many female lone parents who are working. Improving access to childcare will also help remove barriers that female lone parents face from more fully participating in the labour market. As of April 2011, there were almost 900 families on the City of Hamilton's childcare subsidy waiting list.

Violence and abuse may have been part of the lives of many of Hamilton's female lone parents. The most recent *Families Count* report from the Vanier Institute of the Family cited research that revealed that physical and emotional abuse was the second most common reason for separation and divorce in Canada[7]. Data from police services across the country in this same report showed that women were five times more likely to be victimized by an ex-spouse than men.

Families led by female lone parents are a growing population group in Hamilton, totaling 20,790 in 2006, which is a 23% increase since 1996 (Chart 14). Hamilton has a higher rate of female lone parent-led families than Ontario (15% vs. 13%), but lower than the rate in Toronto and Windsor (both 17%).

Chart 14. Families led by female lone parents

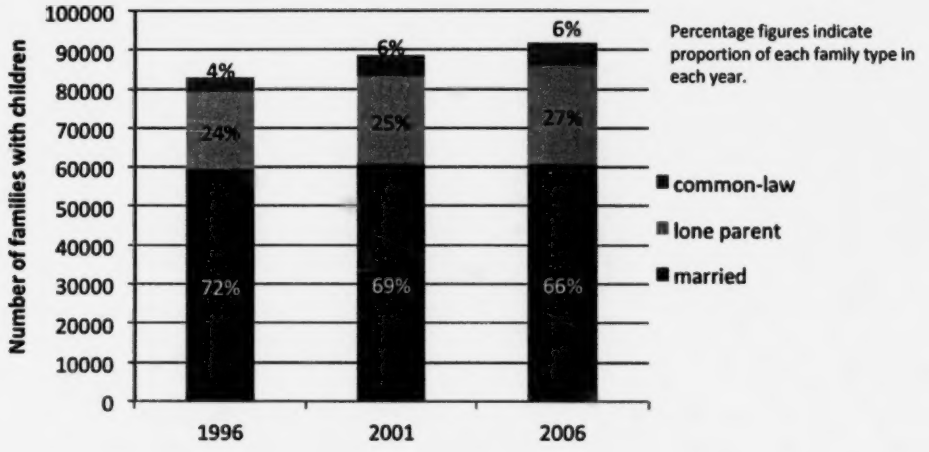


Data source: 1996, 2001 and 2006 Censuses of Canada, Statistics Canada

[5] The Hamilton Census Metropolitan Area includes Hamilton, Burlington and Grimsby
[6] See chapter 9 for information on the poverty line used in these statistics.
[7] Vanier Institute of the Family (2010). Families Count: profiling Canada's families IV. Ottawa. http://www.vifamily.ca/media/webfm-uploads/Publications/FamiliesCount/Families_Count.pdf

From the chart of types of families with children from 1996-2006 (Chart 15), we can see that lone parents are not just growing in number, but are also a growing proportion within the three family types, going from 24% of families in 1996 to 27% of families in 2006.

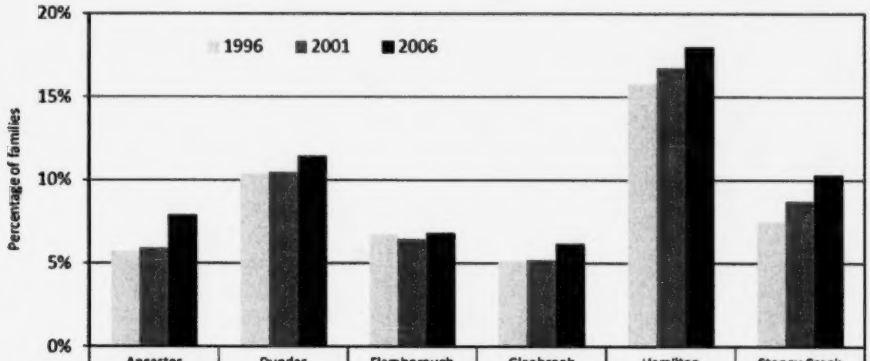
Chart 15. Families with children, City of Hamilton, 1996-2006



Data source: 1996, 2001 and 2006 Censuses of Canada, Statistics Canada

The SPRC's *Community Profiles* report showed that female lone parents are experiencing growth in almost all communities in the city, but that the largest proportions of female lone parents in the city continues to be in the lower city (Chart 16).

Chart 16. Families led by female lone parents, Communities within the City of Hamilton, 1996-2006



	Ancaster	Dundas	Flamborough	Glanbrook	Hamilton	Stoney Creek
1996	6%	10%	7%	5%	16%	8%
2001	6%	11%	6%	5%	17%	9%
2006	8%	11%	7%	6%	18%	10%
1996	380	665	665	155	13,745	1,145
2001	470	720	710	190	15,090	1,445
2006	745	795	770	295	16,140	1,875

Percentage of families led by female lone parents

Number of female lone parents

The increasing population of parents raising children on their own in Hamilton means that there will be greater need for on-site child care at community meetings to allow lone parents to participate in civic life even if they do not have a partner to share family responsibilities. Improvements to childcare availability will also be needed to support more lone parents who wish to return to school or work. The particular needs of female lone parents and their specific pathways means that there may be an increasing need for supports for women fleeing abusive homes, including abuse counseling and shelters.

7.0 ABORIGINALS

7.1 Data quality issues with regards to Aboriginal data from the census

Before examining census data about the Aboriginal population in Hamilton, it is important to note that much of the data gathered by Statistics Canada is not reliable for this population. As noted in the *Progress Report on Homelessness in Hamilton 2003*[8]:

> "the gathering of 'empirical evidence' has been a long-standing problem within the Aboriginal population. It should be noted that even Statistics Canada recognizes that their numbers are an under representation... Aboriginal people overall (on or off reserve), are less likely to participate in the enumeration process. As previously explained ('Two Row Wampum'), this is due to an overall multi-generational mistrust of the government."

One concrete illustration of this phenomenon is that 22 First Nations reserves refused to participate in the 2006 Census, including the Six Nations reserve just 10 km south of Hamilton's city limits[9].

In a Statistics Canada document *How Statistics Canada Identifies Aboriginal Peoples* they state that "there is no single or 'correct' definition of Aboriginal populations. The choice of a definition depends on the purpose for which the information is to be used. Different definitions are used depending on the focus and requirements of the user. Each question will yield Aboriginal populations with different counts and characteristics."

There were four questions in the 2006 census which relate to the Aboriginal population:

- "What are the ethnic or cultural origins of this person's ancestors?" Among the examples listed for this question are Cree, Mi'kmaq, Métis and Inuit. This question is known as the "ethnic origin question".
- "Is this person an Aboriginal person, that is, North American Indian, Métis or Inuit (Eskimo)?" This question is referred to as the "Aboriginal identity" question
- The remaining two questions ask if the person is a member of an Indian Band or First Nation and if the person is a Treaty or Registered Indian. These questions are not as relevant for urban Aboriginal populations.

Within Hamilton's Aboriginal community there are concerns that the Aboriginal Identity question misses many residents who don't identify on a personal basis as "Aboriginal" but who are from Aboriginal descent. Others might generally identify as Aboriginal, but because the person answering cannot simply answer "Yes" to the Aboriginal Identity question as each "Yes" choice lists a specific Aboriginal group (i.e. "Yes, North American Indian"; "Yes, Métis"; "Yes, Inuit"), many assume that to list themselves as "North American Indian" they must be a "Status Indian", so instead select "No" as their response. In addition, some First Nations Aboriginals reject "North American Indian" as a label for their identity, but the 2006 Census form did not provide a response such as "Yes, First Nations"[10] for their self-identification. For these reasons, this report will use the results of the ethnic origin question as a primary indicator of the size and growth of the Aboriginal population in Hamilton instead of the results of the Aboriginal identity question as it captures a larger number of Aboriginals.

A final concern about Aboriginal data gathered by the census is what Statistics Canada calls "under coverage". While it is the law that every Canadian household must fill out a census form, Statistics Canada acknowledges that they are higher than average rates of undercounts in transient and low

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[8] http://www.sprc.hamilton.on.ca/Reports/pdf/ProgressReportOnHomlessness2003.pdf

[9] http://www12.statcan.ca/census-recensement/2006/ref/notes/aboriginal-autochtones-eng.cfm

[10] This has been corrected in Statistics Canada's 2011 National Household Survey.

income households. In addition, there are many groups that are exempted from providing anything but the most basic age and sex information for the Census, and these include:

- seniors living in nursing homes, long term care or other assisted living residences
- agricultural workers living in work camps
- people living in rooming houses
- individuals living in shelters or in transitional housing
- persons with mental health diagnoses living in group homes
- offenders living in prisons or half-way houses

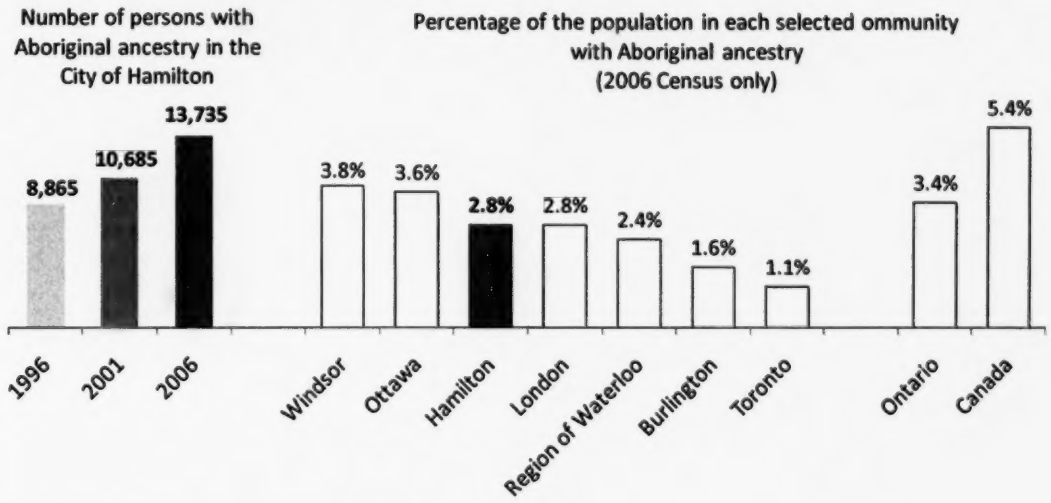
The census also does not count those living on the streets.

Many of these populations have higher than average Aboriginal populations, and this leads to further reliability issues of census data for this community. The reader is asked to keep these concerns in mind when reviewing the results presented for the Aboriginal community in this report. The data included in this report should be interpreted as an underrepresentation of the size of Hamilton's Aboriginal community.

7.2 Aboriginal population growing rapidly

The Aboriginal community in Hamilton counted by the census has been growing steadily reaching 13,735 in 2006, up 55% since 1996 (Chart 17). Hamilton's percentage of Aboriginal individuals within its population is 2.8% and is among in the mid-range among comparable communities, only lower than Windsor and Ottawa.

Chart 17. Persons with Aboriginal ancestry

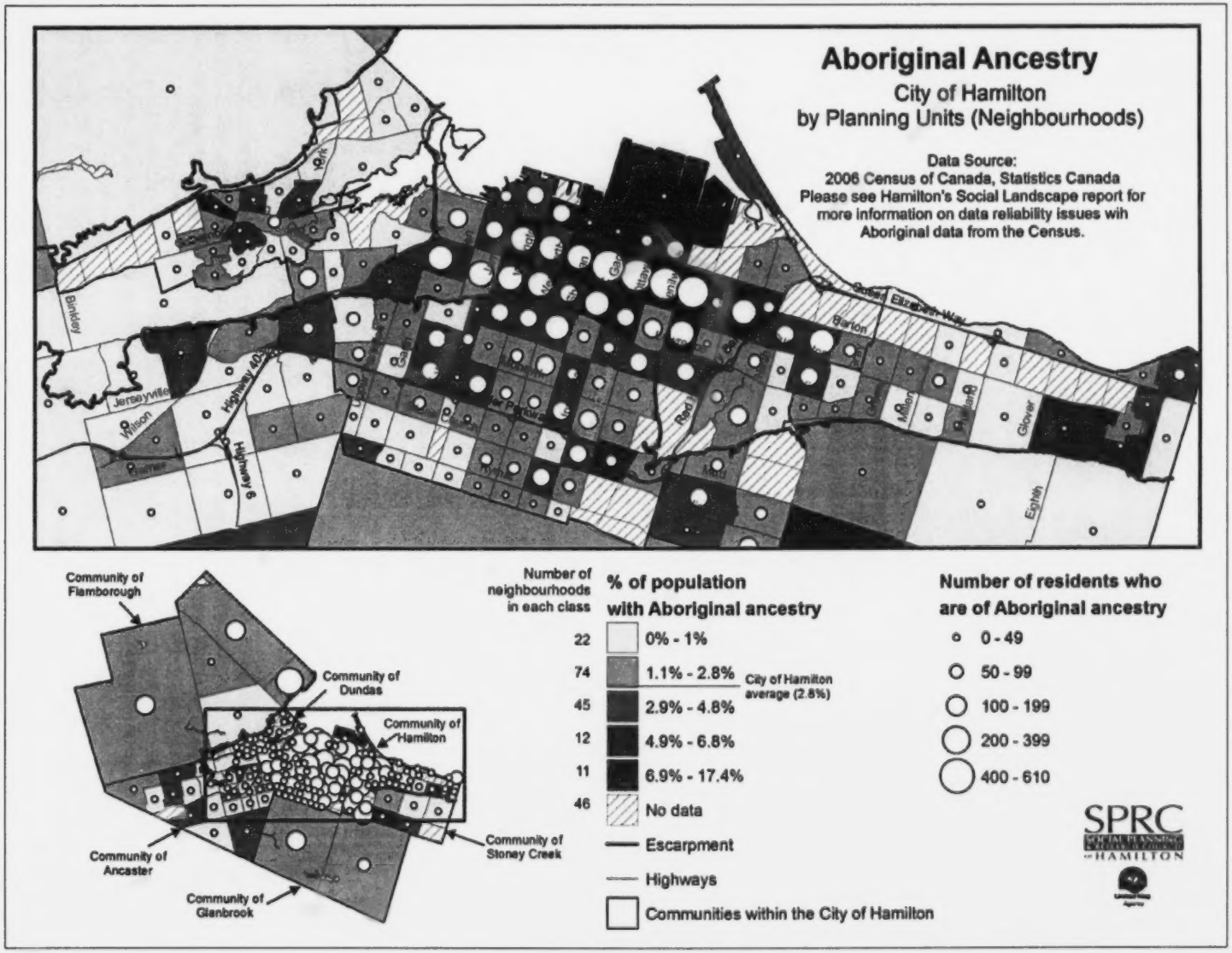


Data source: 1996, 2001 and 2006 Censuses of Canada, Statistics Canada

Hamilton is a leader in Canada when it comes to the collaboration between urban aboriginal agencies. The Hamilton Executive Directors' Aboriginal Coalition (HEDAC) was founded almost 20 years ago and its role is to oversee the implementation of the Urban Aboriginal Plan in Hamilton. The increasing Aboriginal population will place greater demands on HEDAC and its member agencies, as well as mainstream agencies in Hamilton. More training and employment equity practices with organizations and businesses will be needed to ensure that Hamilton's growing Aboriginal population can fully participate in our community.

Map 4 illustrates that almost all of Hamilton's neighbourhoods have at least some residents of Aboriginal ancestry counted by the census and that there are above average proportion of this population in 4 of Hamilton's six communities (Ancaster, Dundas, Hamilton and Stoney Creek). The largest proportions of residents of Aboriginal ancestry are found in neighbourhoods in East Hamilton, including the Keith and Crown Point neighbourhoods.

Map 4.


Aboriginal Ancestry
City of Hamilton
by Planning Units (Neighbourhoods)
Data Source:
2006 Census of Canada, Statistics Canada
Please see Hamilton's Social Landscape report for more information on data reliability issues wih Aboriginal data from the Census.
Community of Flamborough
Community of Dundas
Community of Hamilton
Community of Ancaster
Community of Glanbrook
Community of Stoney Creek
Number of neighbourhoods in each class
% of population with Aboriginal ancestry
22 0% - 1%
74 1.1% - 2.8%
City of Hamilton average (2.8%)
45 2.9% - 4.8%
12 4.9% - 6.8%
11 6.9% - 17.4%
46 No data
Escarpment
Highways
Communities within the City of Hamilton
Number of residents who are of Aboriginal ancestry
0 - 49
50 - 99
100 - 199
200 - 399
400 - 610
SPRC
SOCIAL PLANNING & RESEARCH COUNCIL OF HAMILTON

8.0 VISIBLE MINORITIES, IMMIGRATION AND LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY

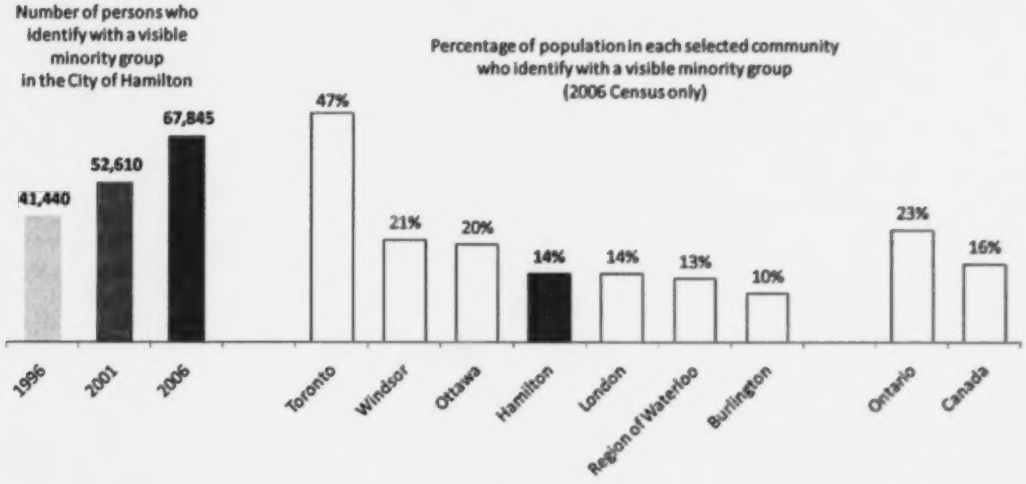
8.1 Visible minorities

In its human services planning framework documents, the City of Hamilton pays particular attention to visible minorities:

> "Attention should be paid to providing services that create a welcoming inclusive community with deliberate and sustained polity and service delivery planning to ensure that the city moves towards a community that demonstrates acceptance and integration of all diverse groups. The unique skills and talents of those who self identity as a visible minority could be better recognized, acknowledged and integrated into more aspects of life in the city."[11]

The visible minority population is growing rapidly in Hamilton, standing at 67,845 in 2006 up more than 50% from 1996 (Chart 18). Visible minorities are defined by the census as those persons who identify with one of nine population groups, excluding Caucasians and Aboriginals. *Visible minorities* is a term defined by the federal government, many groups prefer to use the term *racialized groups* or *racialized persons*. The overall proportion of racialized persons in Hamilton at 14% is in the mid-range of comparable communities, but far behind Toronto (47%).

Chart 18. Persons who identify with a visible minority group



Data source: 1996, 2001 and 2006 Censuses of Canada, Statistics Canada

The diversity within racialized or visible minority groups is also changing. While all groups have seen growth during the 1996-2006 period, the most rapidly increasing groups are Arab/West Asian[12], along with South Asian and Black (Chart 19).

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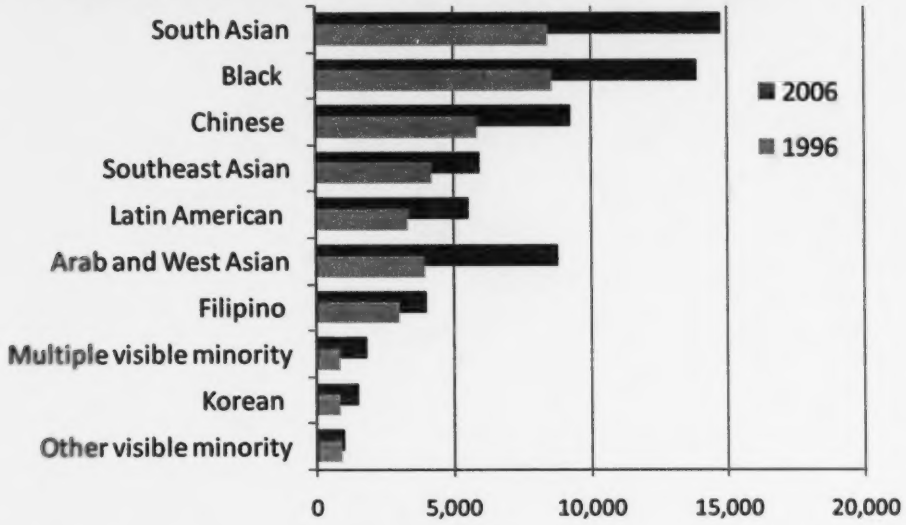
[11] City of Hamilton. 2010. *The Playbook - A Framework for Human Services Planning in Hamilton: Technical Report #3 Demographic Profile*. http://hamilton.ca/HealthandSocialServices/SocialServices/humanservicesplan

[12] There were changes to the census questions about visible minorities from 1996 to 2006. In particular, the West Asian category from 1996 was separated into two separate categories, Arab and West Asian. To allow a direct comparison between the two census years, however the 2006 data was collapsed back to the same categories as in 1996.

Chart 19. Changes in visible minority groups, City of Hamilton, 1996-2006



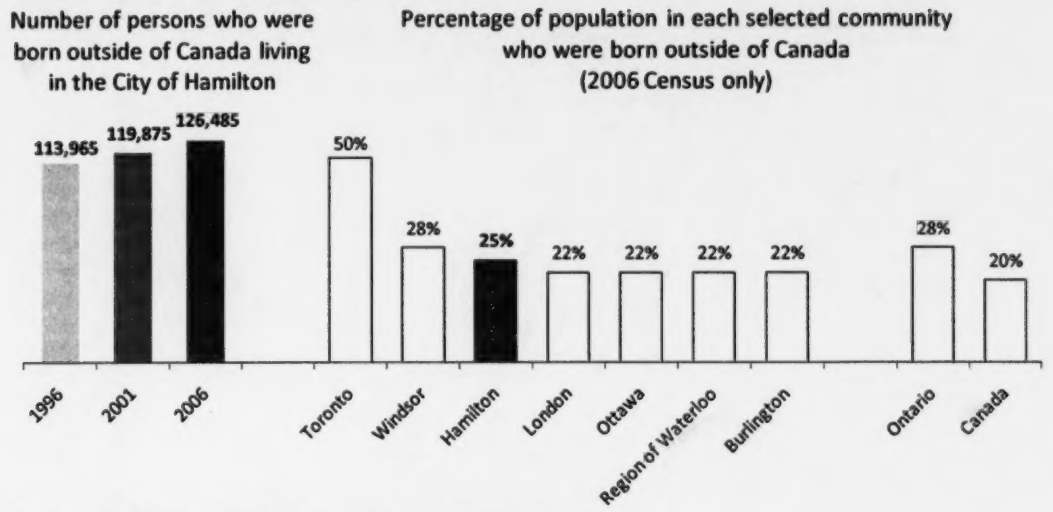
Data source: 1996, 2001 and 2006 Censuses of Canada, Statistics Canada

The increasing cultural diversity within Hamilton will call for organizations and businesses to examine their hiring practices in to determine if they are inclusive of all backgrounds so that Hamilton's workforce reflects the full spectrum of diversity within its population. For some organizations like the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board, one of the first steps has been a diversity audit to get a better understanding of their current workers' backgrounds.
Organizations should be finding ways to create more opportunities for Hamiltonians of all backgrounds to be engaged in decision-making, training and leadership roles, in volunteer, elected and employee positions. The Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion has been at the forefront of shaping public dialog on these issues and offers training for organizations and businesses.

8.2 Immigrants

The number of immigrants in Hamilton is also growing, albeit more slowly. The number of Hamilton residents born outside Canada in 2006 was 126,485, up 11% since 1996 (Chart 20), slightly higher than the overall population growth of 8% during this time. The proportion of Hamilton's population born outside Canada (25%) is third highest in Ontario among comparable cities behind Toronto (50%) and Windsor (28%). It is important to keep in mind that this data does not include other major Ontario communities, such as the Region of Peel and York Region, which also have higher proportion of immigrants than Hamilton.

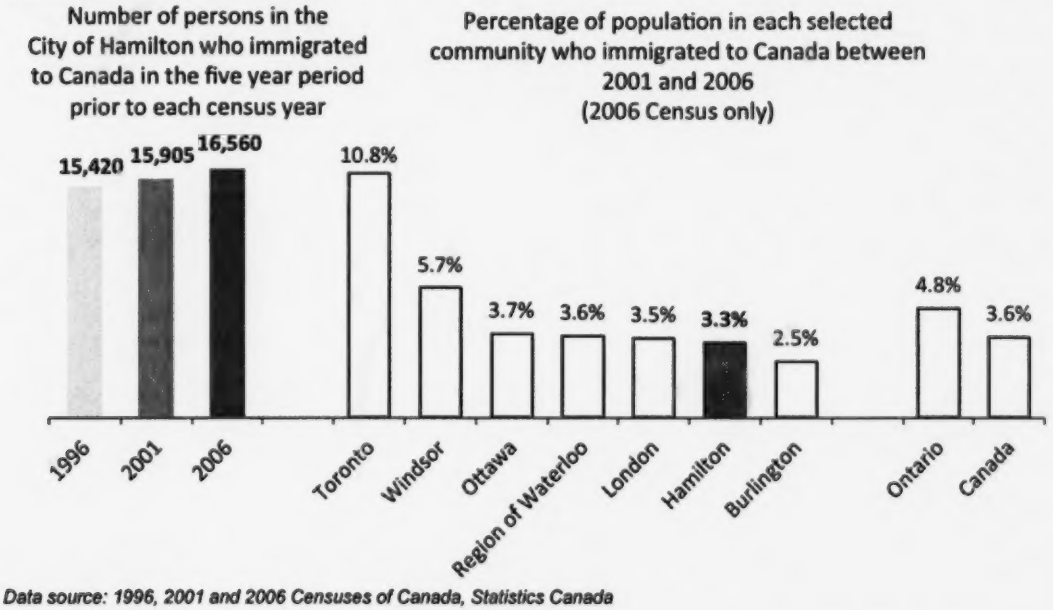
Chart 20. Persons born outside of Canada



Data source: 1996, 2001 and 2006 Censuses of Canada, Statistics Canada

In contrast to the relatively high rates of the overall population in Hamilton born outside of Canada, the proportion of recent immigrants (those arriving between 2001 and 2006) in Hamilton, is at 3.3% among the lowest of comparable cities, only higher than Burlington (2.5%) (Chart 21). The growth in the number of recent immigrants is also modest, only increasing by just over 1,000 residents since 1996, reaching 16,560 persons in 2006.

Chart 21. Recent immigrants



Data source: 1996, 2001 and 2006 Censuses of Canada, Statistics Canada

Map 5 shows the regions of birth of immigrants living in Hamilton, with a breakdown by period of immigration. Many of the patterns illustrated in the map are a reflection of Canada's changing immigration

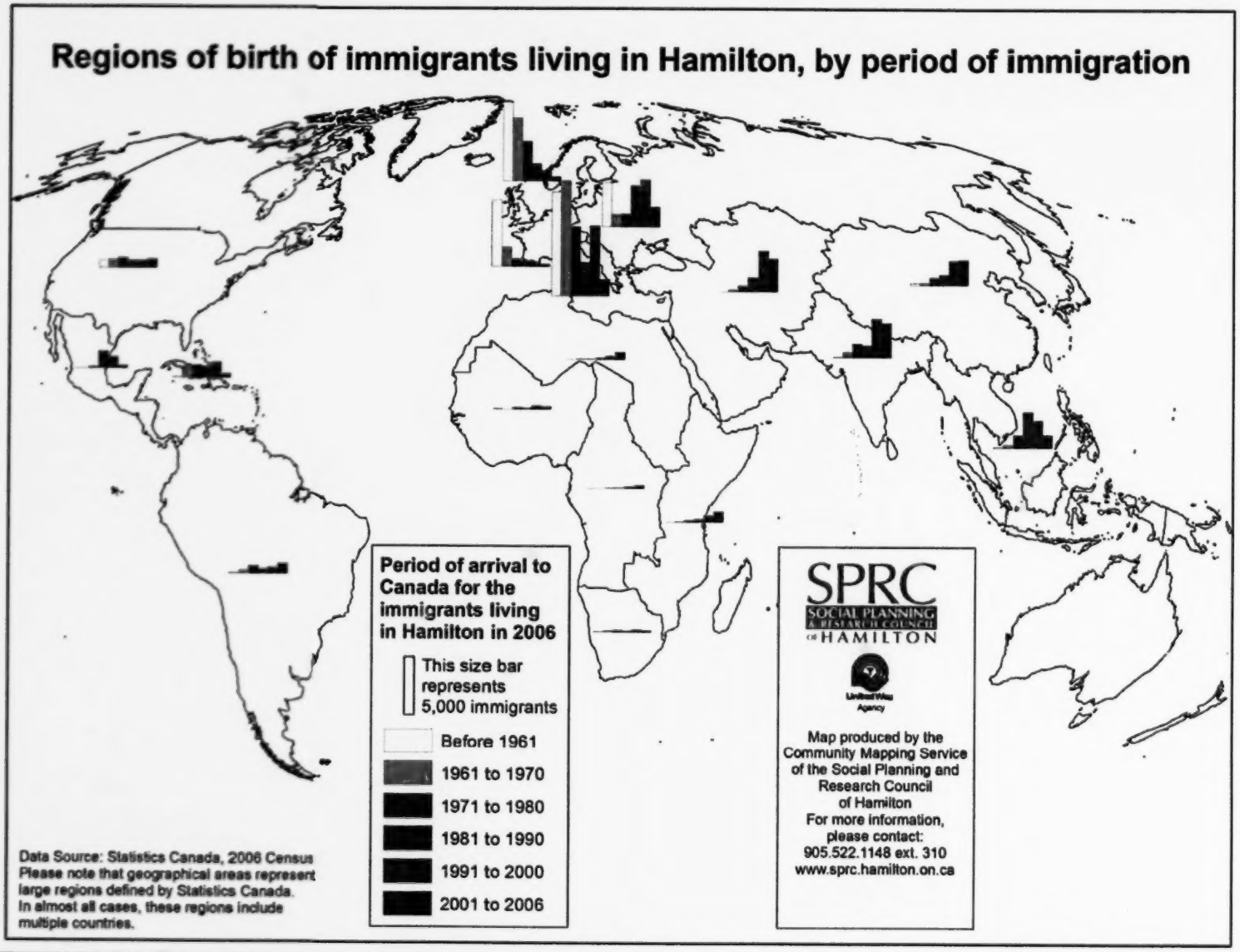
policies and of increased migration from certain countries due to wars, political upheaval and economic conditions specific to certain countries in certain time periods.

It is important to note that most of the bars from the charts on the map represent one decade's worth of immigration. The exceptions however are the first bar (yellow), which includes all immigrants who arrived in Canada before 1961 and the last bar (black), which only includes immigrants from a five-year period (2001 to 2006). The last bar therefore can be doubled to get a sense of how many immigrants would have arrived from that region in the full decade (2001-2011).

Some regions such as Northern Europe (primarily immigrants from Britain and Ireland) and Western Europe (primarily immigrants from Germany) have peaked before 1961 and have been steadily declining as a source of immigrants since then and now account for a negligible proportion of recent immigrants to Hamilton. The other European regions, Southern Europe and Eastern Europe have had different patterns. In the Southern European region, the largest number of immigrants arrived before 1961, and this is primarily due to the large influx of Italian immigrants to Hamilton in the 1940s and 1950s. There is another spike in Southern European immigrants who arrived in the 1990s, and these immigrants came primarily from the former Yugoslav republics at the time of the breakup of that country and the subsequent Bosnian and Kosovo wars.

Currently, the largest numbers of immigrants arrive from countries in Asia. Although the numbers are still quite small, immigrants from some countries in Africa are growing at an exponential rate. There have been more immigrants who arrived in the 2001-2006 from East Africa and Northern Africa living in Hamilton than arrived in all the previous decades combined.

Map 5.


Regions of birth of immigrants living in Hamilton, by period of immigration
Period of arrival to Canada for the immigrants living in Hamilton in 2006
This size bar represents 5,000 immigrants
Before 1961
1961 to 1970
1971 to 1980
1981 to 1990
1991 to 2000
2001 to 2006
Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census
Please note that geographical areas represent large regions defined by Statistics Canada. In almost all cases, these regions include multiple countries.
SPRC
SOCIAL PLANNING & RESEARCH COUNCIL of HAMILTON
United Way Agency
Map produced by the Community Mapping Service of the Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton
For more information, please contact:
905.522.1148 ext. 310
www.sprc.hamilton.on.ca

8.2.1 Secondary migration

Like many Canadians, recent immigrants may move from one city to another in their quest for better employment prospects, for more affordable housing, to be closer to relatives, or many other reasons. Secondary out-migration is a concern to many communities within the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and their analysis of Citizen and Immigration Canada landings data combined with Census data on place of residents of recent immigrants, shows that on average the cities in their study had a net *loss* of 10% of recent immigrants (immigrants who moved within their first five years in Canada from their first place of settlement to a second city)[13].

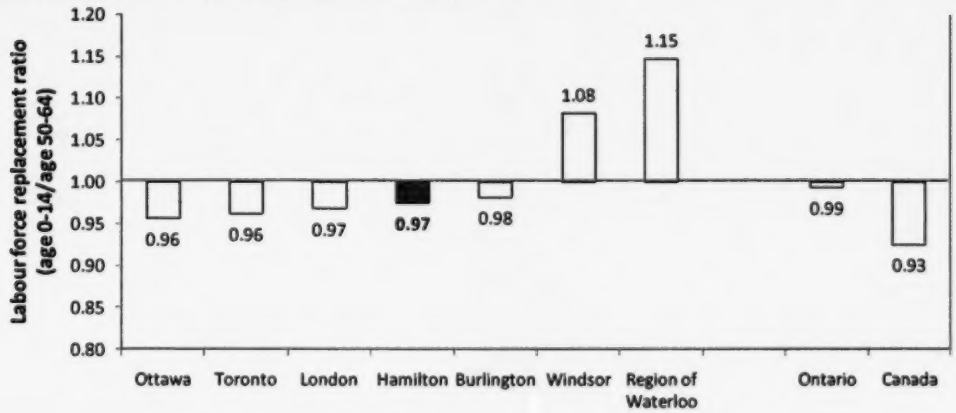
However, many mid-size cities showed a net gain of recent immigrants to secondary migration, including Hamilton. According to the FCM's analysis, Hamilton had almost a 5% net *gain* of recent immigrants in the 2001-2006 period. Among the communities compared in this report, only the Region of Waterloo and Halton Region had greater net gains of recent immigrants, on a percentage basis.

8.2.2 Immigration, population growth and Hamilton's labour force

The same FCM report shows that immigration is the main driver of population growth in many communities across Canada. In Hamilton, their analysis shows that without immigration during the 2001-2006 period, Hamilton's population growth would have completely stalled, even losing a fraction of 1% of its population every year.

Even with immigration however, the current trend is that Hamilton's labour force will decline in the future decades. Chart 22 shows the labour force replacement (LFR) ratio in Hamilton is 0.97, which indicates that for every 100 older adults soon leaving the workforce there are only 97 children who can replace them when they become of working age. An increased focus on attracting immigrants to Hamilton is one way to change this trend and make sure that Hamilton's workforce remains large enough to attract and retain employers. This is one of the main priorities for the City of Hamilton's new Immigration Partnership Council.

Chart 22. Labour Force Replacement Ratio, 2006



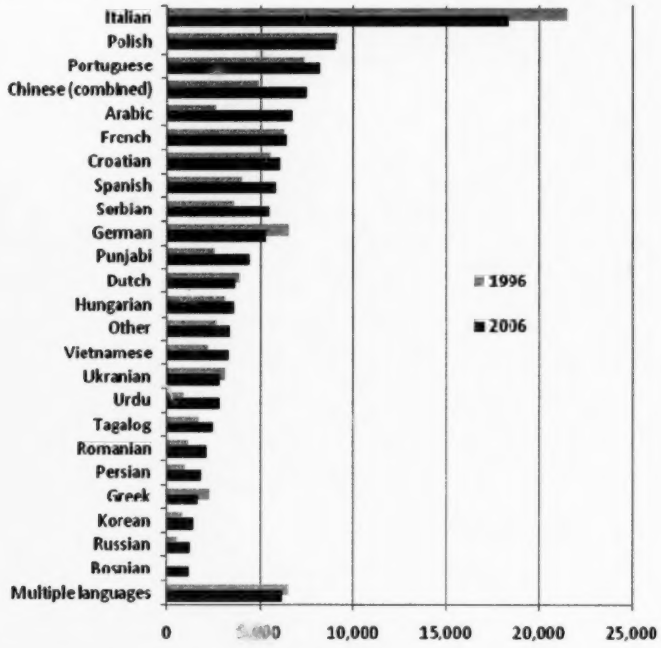
Data source: 2006 Census of Canada, Statistics Canada

[13] Federation of Canadian Municipalities (2009). *Quality of Life in Canadian Communities: Immigration and Diversity in Canadian Cities and Communities.* http://www.fcm.ca//CMFiles/QofL%20Report%205%20En1JPA-3192009-2422.pdf

8.3 Linguistic Diversity

Mother tongue is the first language a person learns, which they may or may not continue to use through adulthood. In Hamilton, after English, the top five mother tongues are Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Chinese, and Arabic (Chart 23). The chart of mother tongues in Hamilton shows that many of the European languages, while still claimed by many residents, are in decline. The fastest growing languages are Arabic, Urdu, Persian and Russian, which all more than doubled in the 1996-2006 period.

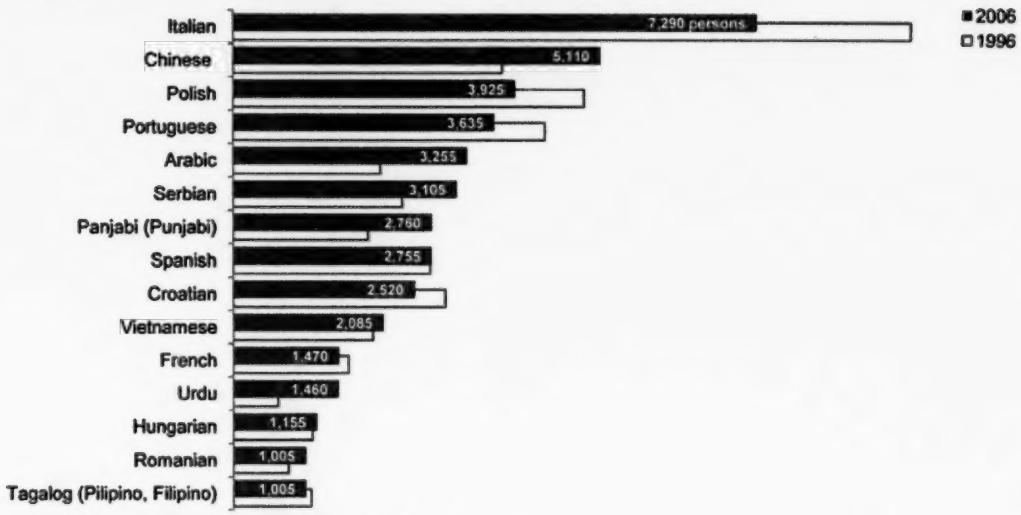
Chart 23. Non-English Mother Tongues, City of Hamilton, 1996-2006



Data source: 1996 and 2006 Censuses of Canada, Statistics Canada

Another language question asked in the Census is what language is spoken most often at home. Over 60,000 persons speak a language other than English at home in Hamilton, representing 15% of the population. The last census in 2006 counted 60 different languages spoken by Hamiltonians at home. In three neighbourhoods, over one third of residents speak a language other than English at home (Riverdale West - 42%, Riverdale East - 41%, and Beasley - 36%). Chart 24 shows the top 15 languages other than English spoken at home. While Italian is the top language in both Chart 23 and 24, languages spoken by more recent waves of immigrants to Hamilton, such as Chinese and Arabic move up in ranks in the list of home languages.

Chart 24. Top 15 Non-English Languages Spoken at Home, City of Hamilton, 1996-2006



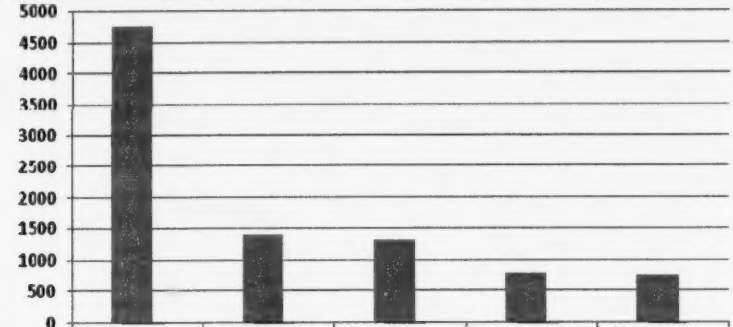
Data source: 2006 Census of Canada, Statistics Canada

Language barriers can have a significant effect on all immigrants, recent or not, especially from non-English speaking countries. Lack of efficient English-language skills can be an obstacle when trying to access education, employment, health care services and housing and training. According to a Statistics Canada survey, 32% of newcomers who tried to enter the labour market identified language as one of the barriers they faced in trying to get employment[14]. Among very newly arrived refugees, language barriers were a barrier for 57% of job seekers.

Within the Hamilton's recent immigrant community only, an analysis of home languages shows that English, Chinese, Arabic, Urdu and Spanish are the most common (Chart 25).

[14] Schellenberd G. and Maheux H. (2007). *Immigrants' perspectives on their first four years in Canada: Highlights from three waves of the Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada.* Ottawa: Statistics Canada. http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/11-008-x/2007000/9627-eng.htm

Chart 25. Top 5 home languages of recent immigrants (2001-2006), City of Hamilton

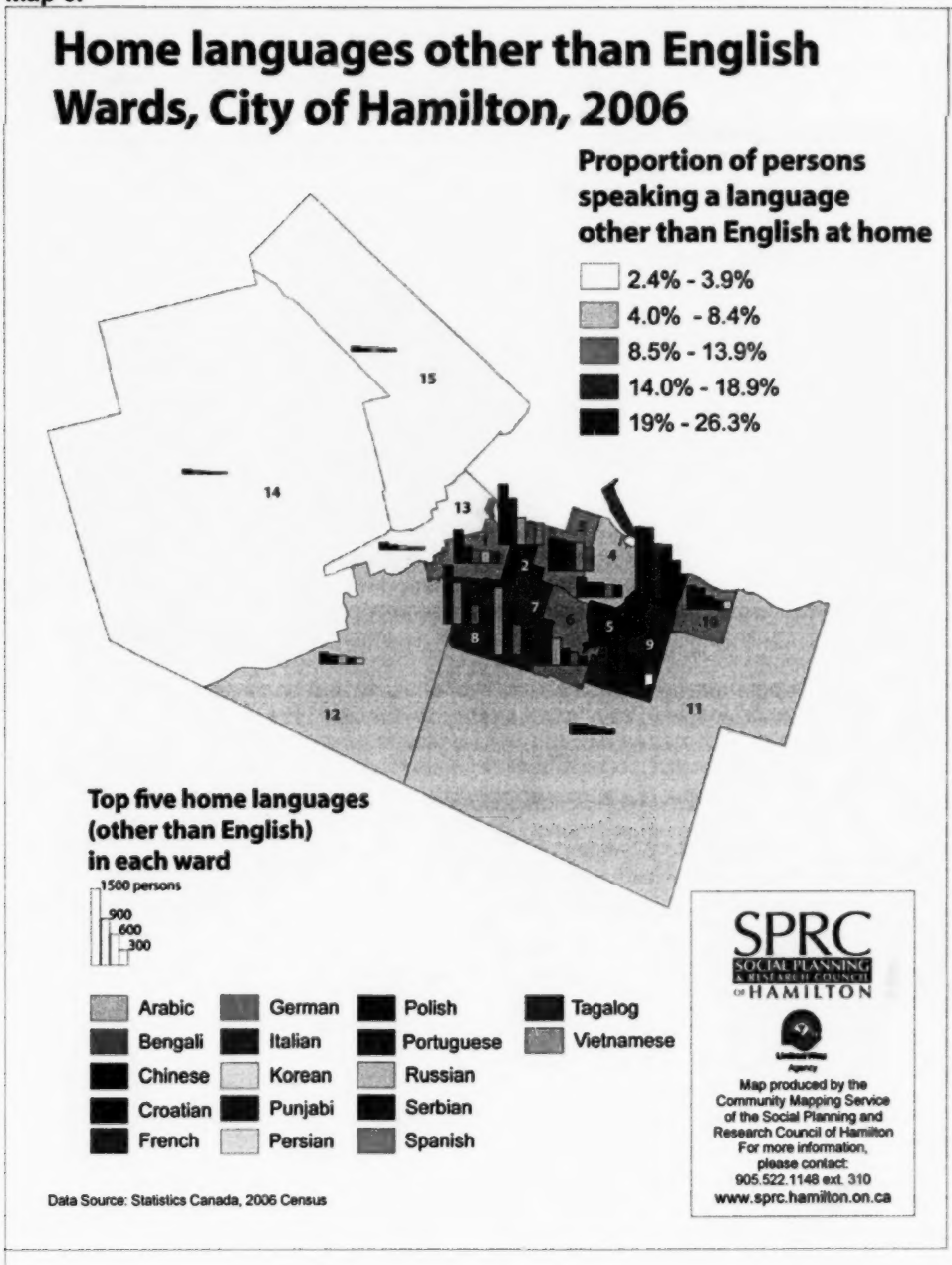


	English	Chinese (Cantonese, Mandarin and not specified)	Arabic	Urdu	Spanish
Number	4750	1400	1320	790	745
Percent	31%	9%	9%	5%	5%

Data source: 2006 Census of Canada, Statistics Canada

The map of languages other than English spoken at home for the general population (Map 6) shows that Ward 2 (downtown) and Ward 5 in the East End have the highest proportions, and that different parts of the city have different dominant languages. In the lower western parts of the city, Chinese and Portuguese are the dominant languages, while in the eastern parts of the lower city Punjabi, Serbian and Italian are most common. Italian and Arabic are spoken by many residents living on the Mountain.

Map 6.

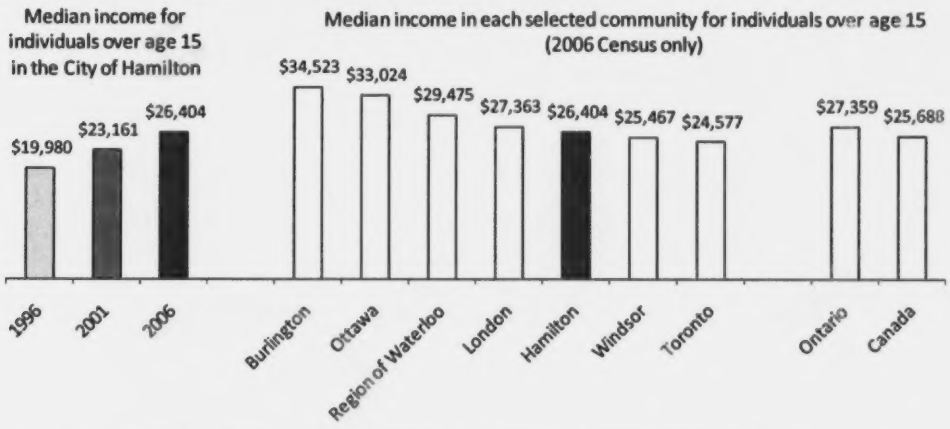

Home languages other than English
Wards, City of Hamilton, 2006
Proportion of persons speaking a language other than English at home
2.4% - 3.9%
4.0% - 8.4%
8.5% - 13.9%
14.0% - 18.9%
19% - 26.3%
15
14
13
2
4
7
6
5
10
8
9
12
11
Top five home languages (other than English) in each ward
1500 persons
900
600
300
Arabic
Bengali
Chinese
Croatian
French
German
Italian
Korean
Punjabi
Persian
Polish
Portuguese
Russian
Serbian
Spanish
Tagalog
Vietnamese
Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census
SPRC
SOCIAL PLANNING & RESEARCH COUNCIL OF HAMILTON
Map produced by the Community Mapping Service of the Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton
For more information, please contact:
905.522.1148 ext. 310
www.sprc.hamilton.on.ca

9.0 INCOMES AND POVERTY

9.1 Individual incomes

This section of the report will give an overview of income data drawn from the last few censuses. The chosen measure is median individual income, the income level at which half the population earns less than that amount and half earns more. Hamilton's median individual income in 2006 was $26,404, and was only higher than Toronto's ($24,577) and Windsor's ($25,467) (Chart 26) among comparable cities.

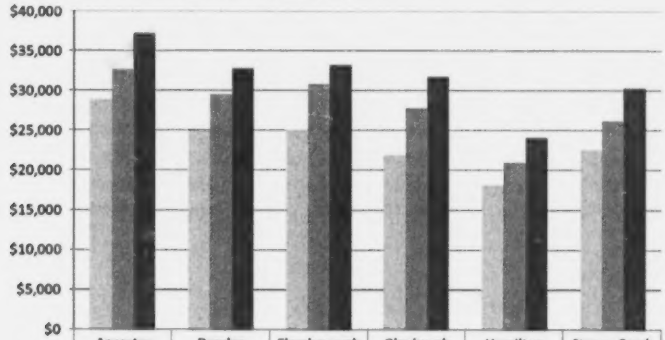
Chart 26. Individual Median Income (age 15 and over)



Data source: 1996, 2001 and 2006 Censuses of Canada, Statistics Canada (not adjusted for inflation)

The SPRC's *Community Profiles* report showed a wide range of median incomes between the six communities that make up the City of Hamilton. Ancaster had the highest median individual income at $37,269 in 2006 and the Community of Hamilton had the lowest at $24,043 in 2006 (Chart 27).

Chart 27. Median Individual Income (aged 15 and over), Communities within the City of Hamilton, 1996-2006 (not adjusted for inflation)



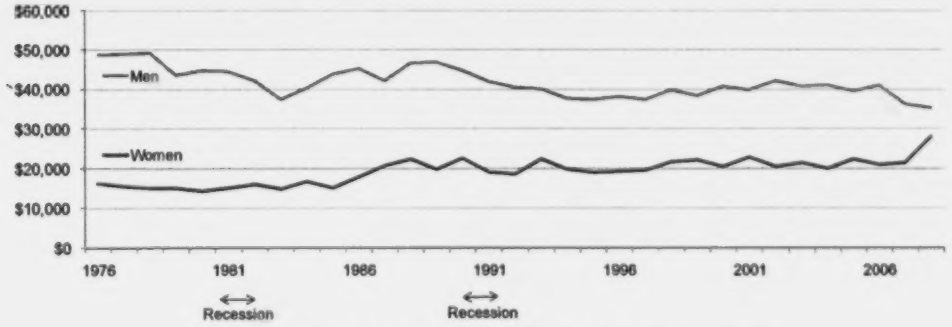
	Ancaster	Dundas	Flamborough	Glanbrook	Hamilton	Stoney Creek
1996	$28,987	$25,056	$25,060	$21,935	$18,203	$22,617
2001	$32,682	$29,562	$30,944	$27,806	$21,025	$26,284
2006	$37,269	$32,828	$33,317	$31,871	$24,043	$30,301

Data source: 1996, 2001 and 2006 Censuses of Canada, Statistics Canada

9.2 Women and men's incomes

The SPRC's most recent *Women and Poverty in Hamilton* report showed that the segregation of jobs in the labour market by sex continues and explains in part the gap between men and women's incomes, even among full time workers. Chart 28 gives the latest update on a trend that the SPRC has been following for some time – the impact of recessions on men and women's incomes. The huge impact of the recessions on men's incomes is clear from the historical data from the 1980s and 1990s recession. The most recent decline in men's incomes in the Hamilton CMA started even before the official start of the most recent recession. This chart also shows that in 2008, the median income for women increased substantially (more than in any other year recorded). This could be due to women taking steps to increase their earnings to compensate for the loss of income by the men in their families. For example, some women may have increased their hours in their current jobs, and others may have gone back to their jobs sooner than planned after the birth of a child. The SPRC will continue to monitor and report on this trend in the coming months and years.

Chart 28. Median individual income by sex (aged 15 and over), Hamilton CMA, 1976-2008 (adjusted for inflation using 2008 dollars)



Data source: Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics, Statistics Canada

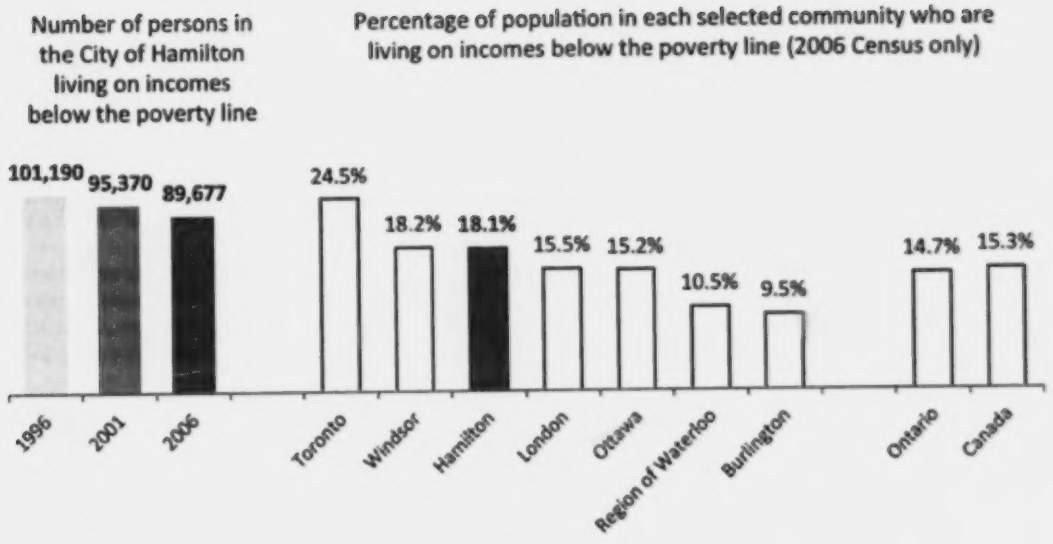
9.3 Poverty

For the purposes of this report, we will use the before-tax Low Income Cut Off (LICO) as the poverty line, a common indicator used across the country[15]. The number of individuals living in poverty has declined slowly but steadily from 1996 to 2006 (Chart 29). But at over 89,000 people in 2006, this still represented 18.1% of the population. Only Windsor (18.2%) and Toronto (24.5%) showed higher poverty rates in 2006 among our set of comparable cities.

Since the last census, the recession has had significant impacts on Hamilton's economy and for residents living on low incomes. Currently, there are still many more persons receiving Ontario Works benefits than before the recession. The city's Ontario Works caseload was over 13,000 cases (includes individuals and families) in April 2011, which is about a third higher than right before the recession. In contrast, there have been significant improvements in the unemployment rate in recent months. The unemployment rate in the Hamilton Census Metropolitan area has dropped to 5.5% in April 2011, which is more than two points lower than the Ontario unemployment rate of 7.9%. The SPRC hopes to investigate these two trends in more depth in the coming months.

Chart 29. Persons living in poverty

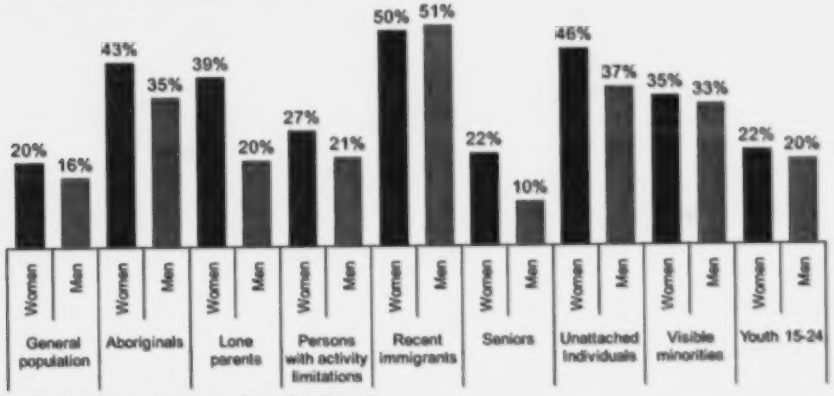
[15] The SPRC's *Incomes and Poverty in Hamilton* report gives detailed information about the LICO and how it is calculated. http://sprc.hamilton.on.ca/Reports/pdf/Incomes-and-Poverty-Report-final-May-2009.pdf



Data source: 1996, 2001 and 2006 Censuses of Canada, Statistics Canada

The poverty rate within Hamilton's various population groups varies substantially. Chart 30 is reproduced from the SPRC's *Women and Poverty in Hamilton* report and shows that recent immigrants, Aboriginals, unattached individuals and visible minorities and female lone parents face the biggest income challenges. The largest gap between male and female poverty rates is among Hamilton's seniors, with women over age 65 having more than twice the rate of poverty as compared to men in the same age group.

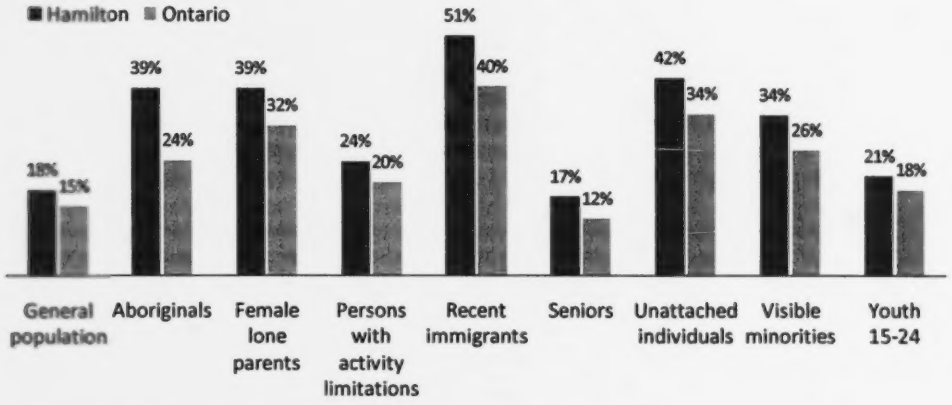
Chart 30. Percentage of persons living on incomes below the poverty line, by sex and selected groups, City of Hamilton, 2006 Census



Data source: 2006 Census of Canada, Statistics Canada

Chart 31 shows that Hamilton's rates of poverty are higher than the provincial rates in all groups examined. The difference between the poverty rate in Hamilton and in Ontario is highest for Aboriginals and recent immigrants.

Chart 31. Percentage of persons living on incomes below the poverty line, by selected groups, City of Hamilton and Ontario, 2006 Census



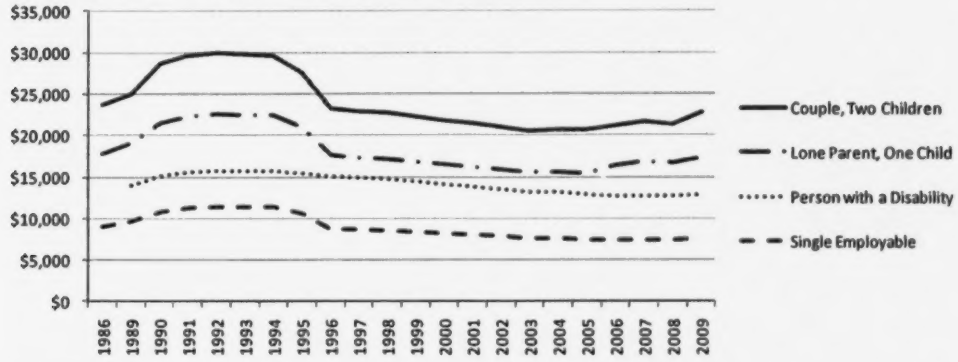
Data source: 2006 Census of Canada, Statistics Canada

Nearly 30,000 of Hamilton's poorest are Ontario Works beneficiaries in Hamilton, of which more than a third are children. For these residents, the precariously low level of social assistance is a significant barrier to participating in mainstream life. The National Council on Welfare, a government-appointed advisory committee to the Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development explained "Regardless of the measure used, welfare incomes were consistently far below most socially accepted measures of adequacy."[16]

In recent years, increases to child benefits have made some improvements to incomes for families with children under age 18 (Chart 32). They are especially helpful to families who move from social assistance to the labour market as they can now keep a larger portion of their income when they work, which decreases barriers for seeking employment. Incomes for families with children, however, remain lower than benefits available in the early 1990s and well below the most common poverty line (Chart 33).

[16] National Council of Welfare (2011). *Welfare Incomes: Key Patterns and Trends.* http://www.ncw.gc.ca/l.3bd.2t.1ilshtml@-eng.jsp?lid=331&fid=23

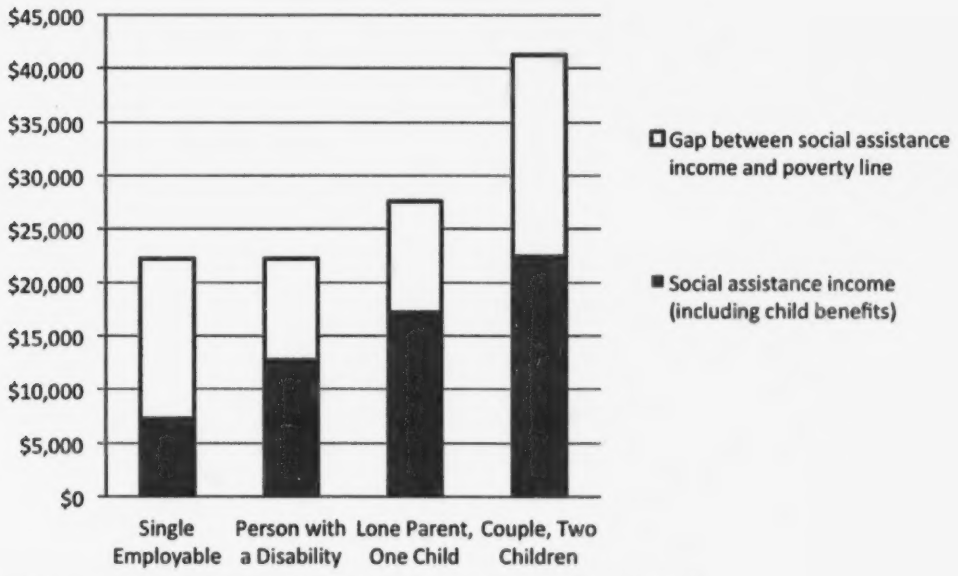
Chart 32. Yearly income security rates for social assistance recipients in Ontario (including federal and provincial benefits), 1989-2009



Data source: Welfare Incomes 2009, National Council on Welfare. All figures adjusted for inflation using 2009 dollars.

A single individual considered employable has the greatest challenges, as their social assistance incomes are a mere 34% of the poverty line for a single person (Chart 33). To become eligible for social assistance in the first place, one has to drain almost all previous savings, making it even more difficult to eventually climb out of poverty. As well, social assistance incomes for singles are so low that seeking employment is made even more challenging, as it is very difficult to find proper housing and afford to eat enough food, and they have no extra money for money for transportation or clothing.

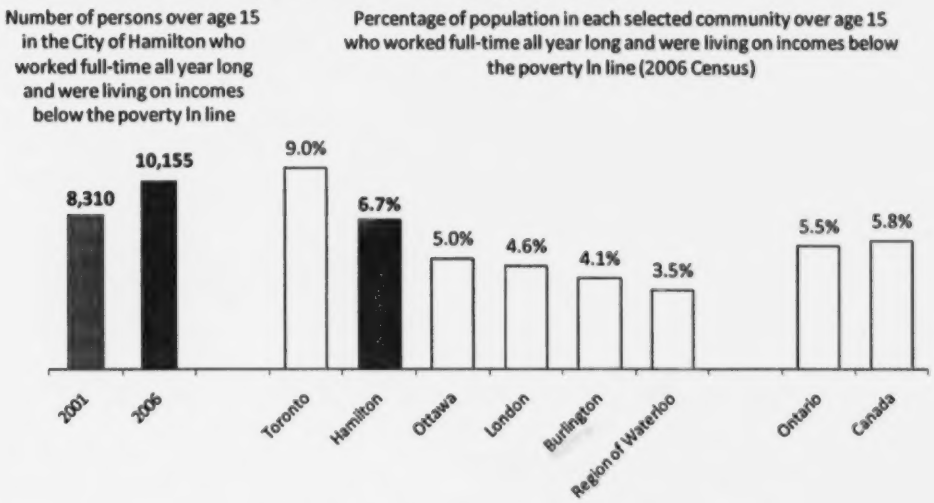
Chart 33. Income security benefits for Ontario social assistance recipients, as a proportion of the poverty line (before tax LICO), 2009



Data source: Welfare Incomes 2009, National Council on Welfare and Statistics Canada

Even among those who can find stable employment, poverty is not always kept at bay. Chart 34 shows that over 10,000 Hamiltonians were working full-time, yet their wages did not lift them above the poverty line according to the 2006 Census. This represents 6.7% of workers in our city, higher than the provincial average, and only lower than Toronto among comparable cities (data was not available for Windsor). The SPRC's *Women and Poverty in Hamilton* report showed that the rates of "working poor" were much higher for groups that often have more difficulties in accessing the labour market, such as visible minorities, recent immigrants, Aboriginals and persons with activity limitations.

Chart 34. Persons working full-time yet still living in poverty



Data source: 2006 Census of Canada, Statistics Canada

The substantial increase in the minimum wage in the last three years, after a decade of stagnation will have some positive impacts for Hamilton's lowest paid workers. The Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction has prioritized making Hamilton a living wage community in the coming three years, by making the economic case for how paying workers a decent wage is good for people and for business. More jobs that pay a living wage will help to decrease working poor rates in Hamilton. Part of this work will be collaborating with community partners in Hamilton and the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives to calculate the level of a living wage in Hamilton.

10.0 HEALTH

10.1 Health and incomes

While individual lifestyle choices such as healthy eating, not smoking and exercise are often recommended as the way to improve one's health, research has shown that an individual approach will not improve health as much as societal and policy changes to reduce economic and social inequalities. The Public Health Agency of Canada explains that "there is strong and growing evidence that higher social and economic status is associated with better health. In fact, these two factors seem to be the most important determinants of health."[17]

A Toronto Public Health report on health inequity in Ontario's capital showed that almost all health status indicators (such as life expectancy, low birth rate, physical activity and sexually transmitted infections) are subject to the "social gradient" – that is that health improves through each income bracket[18]. The social gradient makes it clear that people in all income groups are affected by health inequalities, not just the poorest among us. Research has shown the social gradient exists even when other factors such as smoking and material deprivation are taken into account.[19]

In Hamilton, the public awareness about health inequities has been increased by the Hamilton Spectator's Code Red series. This series mapped out the varying rates of emergency room visits, hospital admissions, low birth weights and life expectancies across the city and showed the stark differences based on the average incomes of each neighbourhood.

The Hamilton-Niagara-Haldimand-Brant Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) has also tracked some health indicators by neighbourhood income quintile[20]. Income quintiles are determined by ordering all Ontario neighbourhoods from lowest to highest average income. Then the range is divided into five equal parts, with each slice containing 20% of the Ontario's neighbourhoods, and each slice contain progressively higher income neighbourhoods. Chart 35 shows that the rate of diabetes in the Hamilton population is dependent on income. The diabetes rate in Hamilton's wealthiest neighbourhoods is 5.6%, compared to 9.3% in the poorest neighbourhoods (a 40% difference).

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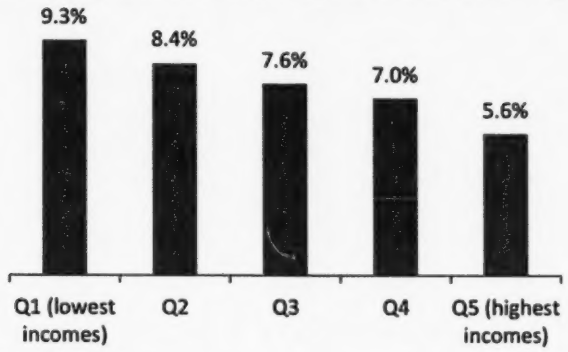
[17] Public Health Agency of Canada. *What Makes Canadian Health or Unhealthy?* Accessed January 10, 2011 http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ph-sp/determinants/determinants-eng.php#income

[18] Toronto Public Health (2008). *The Unequal City: Income and Health Inequalities in Toronto.* City of Toronto. http://www.toronto.ca/health/map/pdf/unequalcity_20081016.pdf

[19] Public Health Agency of Canada. *What Makes Canadian Health or Unhealthy?* Accessed January 10, 2011 http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ph-sp/determinants/determinants-eng.php#income

[20] Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences. *Trends in diabetes prevalence, incidence and mortality, 1995/06–2004/05.* Local Health Integration Report: Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant. Accessed December 15 2010. http://www.ices.on.ca/file/DiabetesCh1_Update_LHIN04_Dec6.ppt

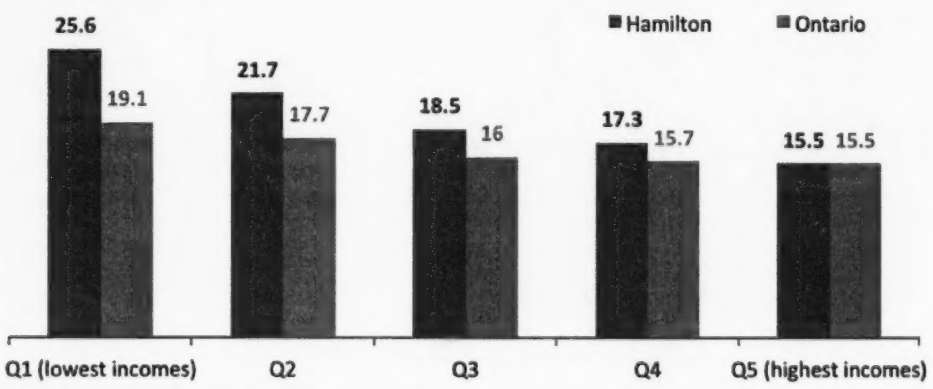
Chart 35. Age- and sex-adjusted prevalence rate of diabetes mellitus per 100 residents aged 20 years and older, City of Hamilton by neighbourhood income quintile, 2004/05,



Data source: Institute for Clinical Evaluative Studies

This trend is also evident in Hamilton's mortality rate in persons with diabetes (Chart 36). The mortality rate in Hamilton's wealthiest neighbourhoods is the same as the average for wealthy neighbourhoods across Ontario (15.5 deaths per 1,000 population). But among Hamilton's lowest income neighbourhoods, the mortality rate is much higher than the average in Ontario's lowest income neighbourhoods (25.6 for Hamilton compared to 19.1 for Ontario). This difference in diabetes mortality rates between Hamilton and Ontario warrants further investigation, especially considering the prevalence of diabetes in Hamilton is very close to Ontario's among all income groups.

Chart 36. Age- and sex-adjusted mortality rate per 1,000 Ontarians with diabetes mellitus aged 20 years and older, City of Hamilton and Ontario by neighbourhood income quintile, 2000/01–2004/05



Data source: Institute for Clinical Evaluative Studies

The Toronto Public Health's Unequal City report concluded that:

> The health inequalities documented in this report should be seen as unacceptable in a society that places a high value on equal access to good health. These differences represent a missed opportunity to achieve better health

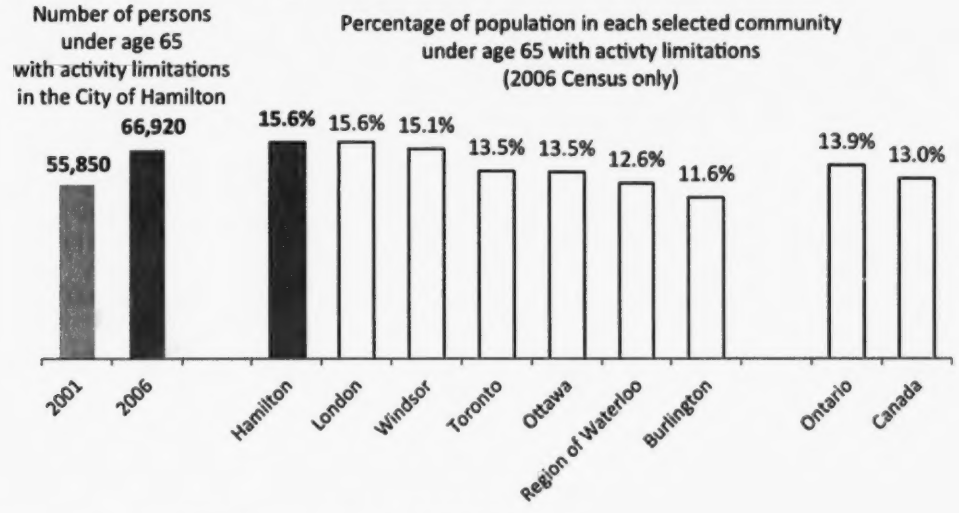
for the city as a whole. The reduction of income inequality and measures to reduce poverty should be pursued as priority health strategies.[21]

10.2 Activity limitations

One of the questions on the 2006 long form of the census asked "Does this person have any difficulty hearing, seeing, communicating, walking, climbing stairs, bending, learning or doing any other similar activities?". (The census guide further explained to respondents that this question refers to conditions or health problems that have lasted or are expected to last six months or more.) There is no single best measure of disability[22], but this census question on self-declared activity limitations can be used to gain some limited insight into this population.

This activity limitation data shows that the number of persons under age 65[23] in Hamilton with self-declared activity limitations is growing rapidly, up almost 15,000 people since 2001, reaching 106,460 in 2006 (Chart 37). In 2006, 66,920 persons of those with activity limitations were under the age of 65 (63%). The proportion of Hamilton's population under age 65 that declared an activity limitation on the census stood at 15.6%, tied for first place with London among comparable cities.

Chart 37. Persons under age 65 with self-declared activity limitations



Data source: 2001 and 2006 Censuses of Canada, Statistics Canada

[21] Toronto Public Health (2008). *The Unequal City: Income and Health Inequalities in Toronto.* City of Toronto. http://www.toronto.ca/health/map/pdf/unequalcity_20081016.pdf

[22] Andrew MacKenzie, Matt Hurst and Susan Crompton (2009). *Living with disability Series: Defining disability in the Participation and Activity Limitation Survey.* Canadian Social Trends, Statistics Canada. http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/11-008-x/2009002/article/11024-eng.htm

[23] The analysis for this population was done only for the persons with self-declared limitations under age 65. Seniors were excluded because that age group has a much higher rate of disability than other age groups and because there are different proportions of seniors in each community. If the disability rate for the entire population is examined, the different rates are heavily affected by the proportion of seniors in each community.

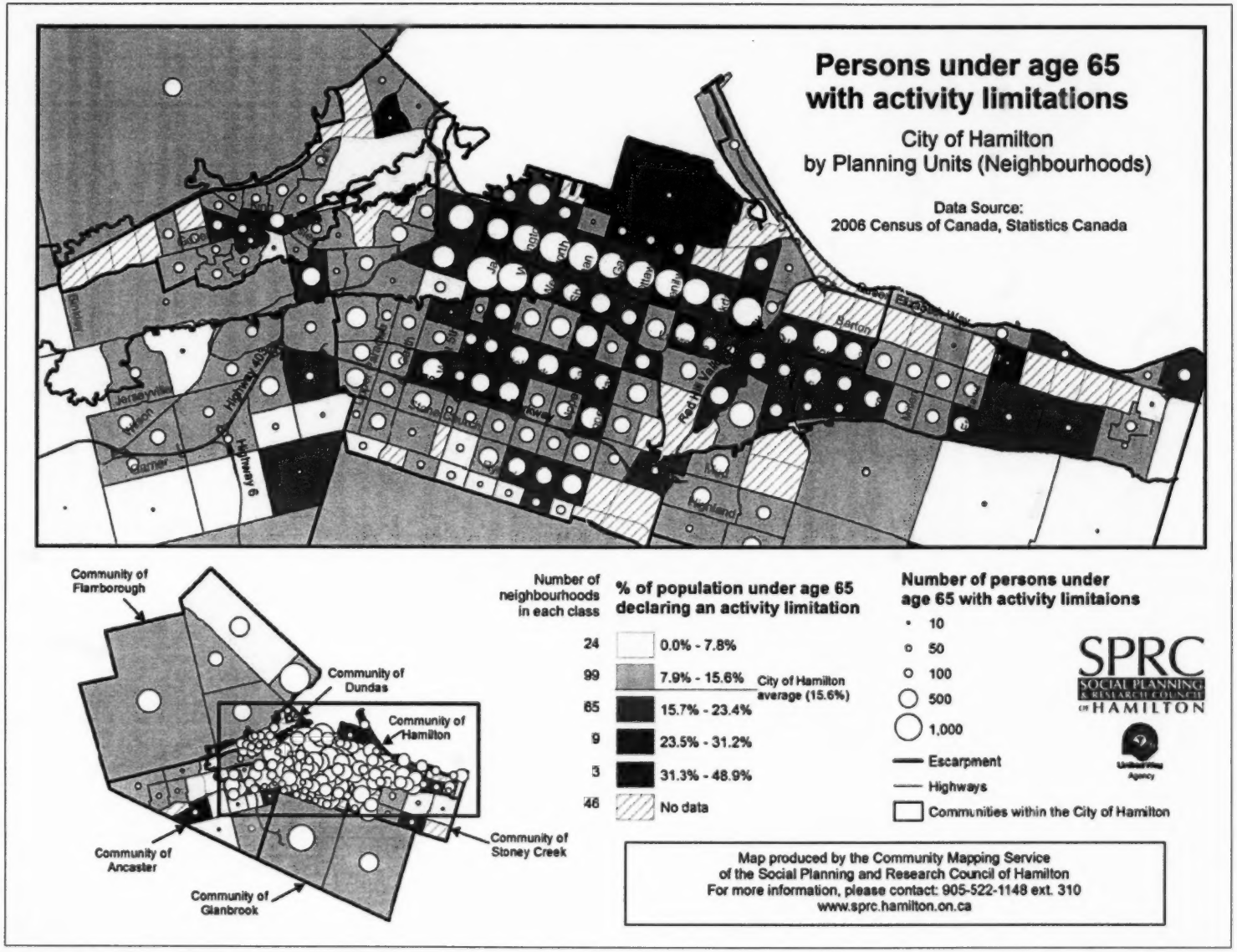
One reason behind the varying rates of disabilities among the comparable cities may be housing affordability. Due to the barriers encountered by the disabled population in the labour market, this population has a higher poverty rate and lower median incomes than the general population; so many disabled persons may seek to live in cities where the cost of living is lower. Comparing with of average gross rents for the selected cities in Chapter 11, the general trend is that the cities with the lowest rents have higher rates of disability, while many of the communities with higher rents have generally lower rates of disability.

Another factor influencing the higher disability rate in Hamilton may be the traditional industrial and manufacturing employment base in this city. The types of jobs in these industries have higher rates of workplace injuries and longer term negative health effects, which lead to disability for many workers. Among the set of comparable cities in this report, Windsor, another city with a large manufacturing employment base also has a higher than average disability rate. Again, further investigation is needed to better understand if this factor is a significant explanation for the disability trends.

The geographic distribution of Hamilton's population under age 65 with activity limitations is illustrated in Map 7. All almost all areas of the city have neighbourhoods with higher than average disability rates, including Ancaster, Dundas, the lower city and Hamilton Mountain as well as Stoney Creek.

Hamilton businesses and organizations will soon have to start to take notice and adapt to the increasing rates of disability with the community's population if they haven't already. The new provincial Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act has a goal of an accessible Ontario by 2025. The first stage requires all businesses and organizations to develop and enforce policies to promote accessible customer services by 2012. The future stages will remove and prevent barriers in employment, information and communications, transportation, and the built environment.

Map 7.

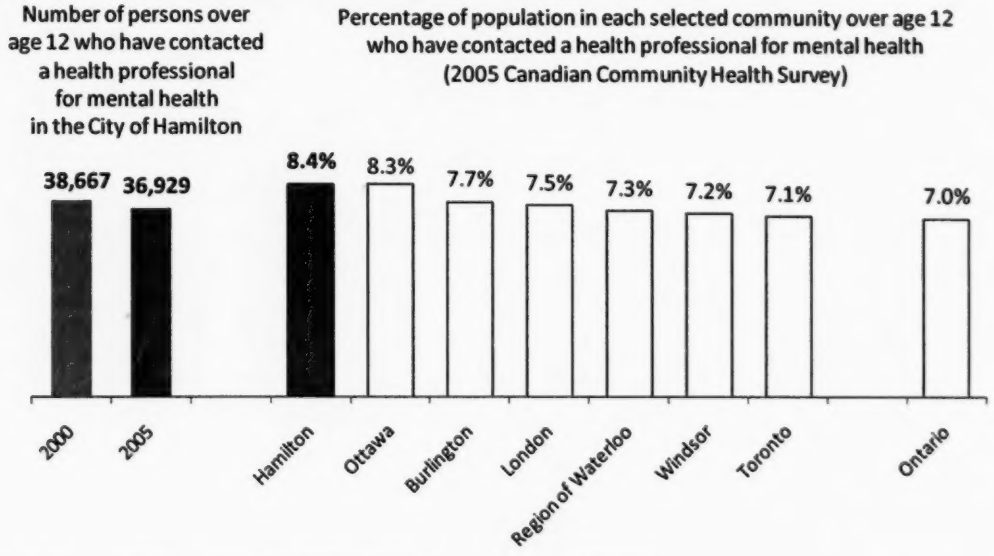

Persons under age 65
with activity limitations
City of Hamilton
by Planning Units (Neighbourhoods)
Data Source:
2006 Census of Canada, Statistics Canada
Community of Flamborough
Community of Dundas
Community of Hamilton
Community of Ancaster
Community of Glanbrook
Community of Stoney Creek
Number of neighbourhoods in each class
% of population under age 65 declaring an activity limitation
24 0.0% - 7.8%
99 7.9% - 15.6%
City of Hamilton average (15.6%)
65 15.7% - 23.4%
9 23.5% - 31.2%
3 31.3% - 48.9%
46 No data
Number of persons under age 65 with activity limitaions
10
50
100
500
1,000
Escarpment
Highways
Communities within the City of Hamilton
SPRC
SOCIAL PLANNING & RESEARCH COUNCIL OF HAMILTON
Map produced by the Community Mapping Service
of the Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton
For more information, please contact: 905-522-1148 ext. 310
www.sprc.hamilton.on.ca

10.3 Mental Health

The Canadian Community Health Survey, conducted by Statistics Canada, has some data for Hamilton on a host of self-reported health measures such as health status, smoking, fruit and vegetable consumption, immunization rates, etc. For the purposes of this report, the data on the number of residents who say they have contacted a health professional about mental health in the previous year was most important from a social planning perspective. Difficulties with one's mental health can lead to problems in personal and employment relationships, finding and maintaining housing and/or physical health.

In 2005, this survey found that 36,929 persons over 12 years of age said they have contacted a health professional about mental health, which was 8.4% of the population (Chart 38). As with the disability data, this places Hamilton first among comparable cities.

Chart 38. Persons who have contacted a health professional for mental health



Data source: 2000 and 2005 Canadian Community Health Survey, Statistics Canada

Mental health challenges can lead to many health and social problems, such as suicide, hoarding, and violence to name just a few. Currently mental health supports are underfunded in Hamilton and across Canada. Because of the long waiting lists for insured services and inadequate incomes that prevent many from accessing other supports (such as psychologists and private practice social workers), tax payers will continue to pay for the outcomes of untreated mental health challenges such as increased justice and health-related services.

11.0 HOUSING

The number of renter households in Hamilton has been in decline (Chart 39), in part because very little rental housing has been built in recent decades and because low interest rates have made home ownership more affordable for some families, who have sometimes converted rental homes into owner occupied homes. The decline in the proportion of renter households is seen across most of Ontario, and in all the selected communities for this report. In 2006, Hamilton had a slightly higher percentage of households led by renters than the overall provincial average (32% vs. 29%) but much less than Toronto (46%).

Chart 39. Renter households

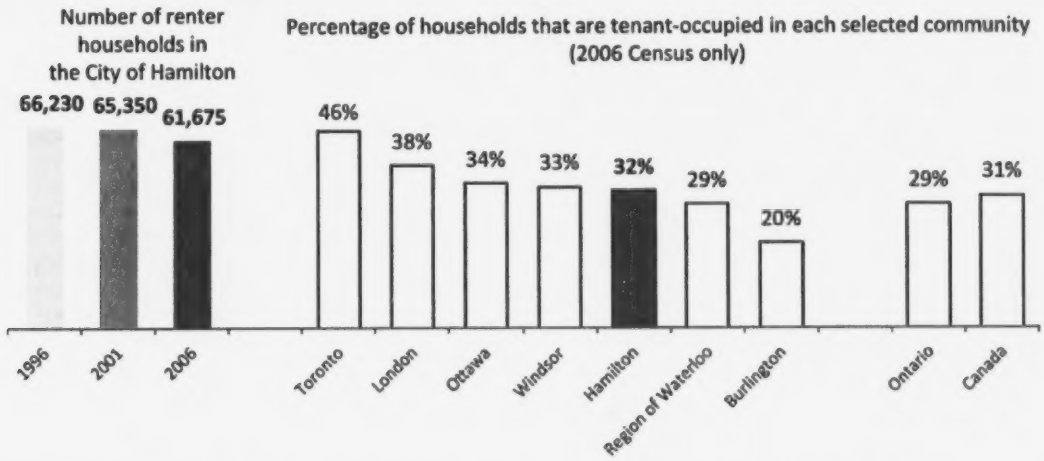
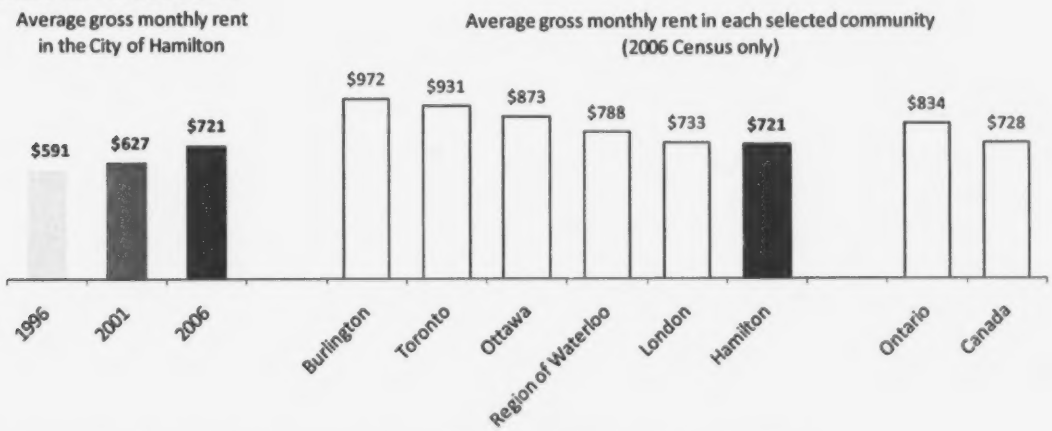


Chart 40 shows that Hamilton has the second lowest average gross rent of all the comparable communities, only higher than Windsor.

Chart 40. Gross Rents



Data source: 1996, 2001 and 2006 Censuses of Canada, Statistics Canada (not adjusted for inflation)

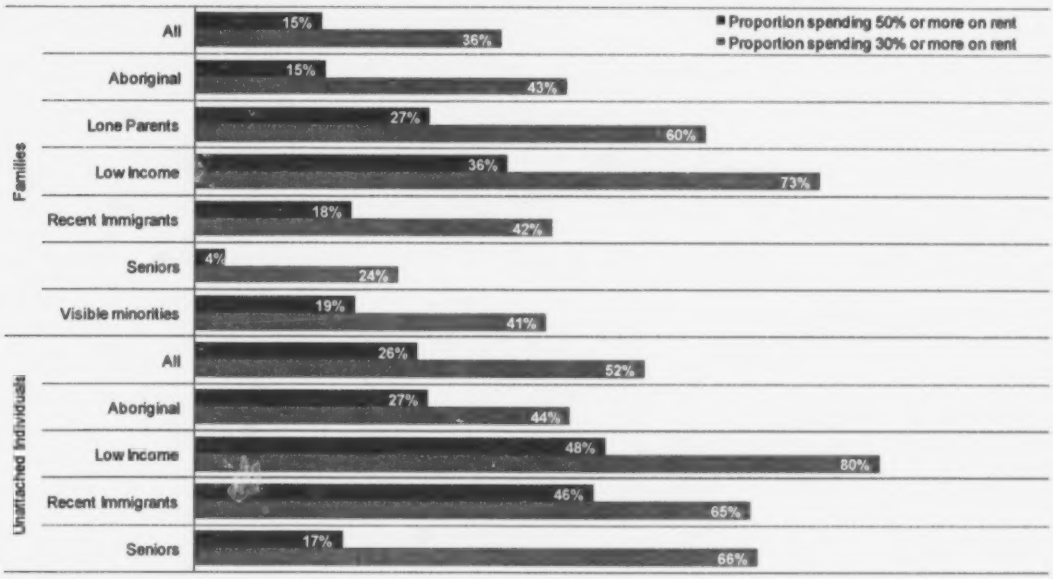
In some ways, the city's lower rental cost makes Hamilton a more affordable city to live in as compared to other communities. However, since Hamilton also has a relatively low median income (see Chapter 9 of this report), the lower median rent does not translate into more disposable income for residents. In 2006, a full 44% of renter households lived in unaffordable housing. 33,340 renter households spent 30% of more of their income on shelter, and almost half of these households, or 15,020, were paying 50% or more of their income on rent, putting them at serious risk of homelessness.

Affordability also varies dramatically between groups (Chart 41). Families, who often have more than one income to draw upon, generally have fewer problems with housing affordability than single persons. But some families in Hamilton are struggling more than others, for example:

- Almost three quarters of low income families (over 9,000 families) are paying more than 30% of their income on rent
- More than a third of low income families in Hamilton (almost 4,500 families) are paying more than half their income on rent, which puts these families at risk of homelessness

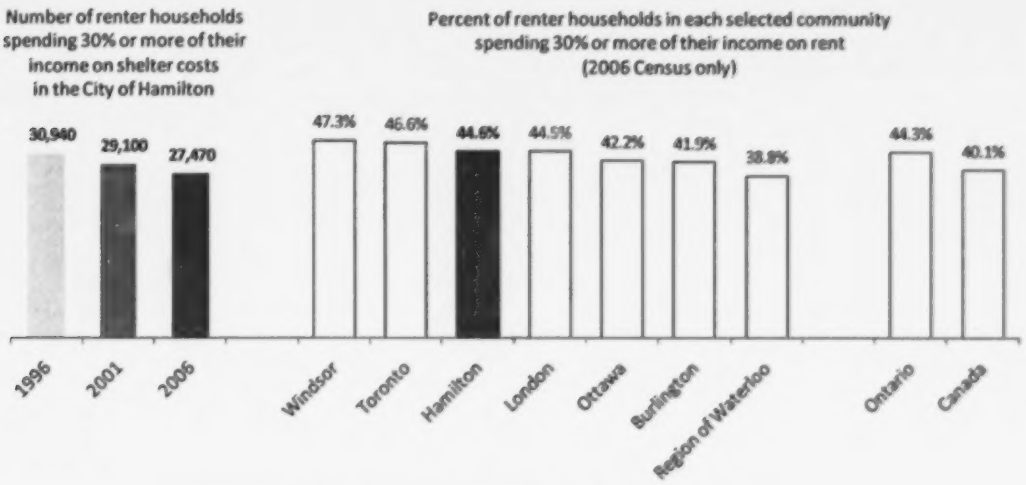
Unattached individuals (most often singles living alone or with roommates) have the biggest challenge finding affordable rental housing in Hamilton. More than half of singles who are renters (17,700 persons) are spending 30% or more of their income on rent. This figure reaches 80% among low income singles (over 14,000 people). One quarter of singles are at risk of homelessness, with very close to half of recent immigrants and low income singles in this situation.

Chart 41. Housing affordability for renters by selected groups, City of Hamilton, 2006



The chart of renter households who are spending 30% or more of their income on shelter costs shows that Hamilton is the community with the 3rd highest rate among our selected communities (Chart 42).

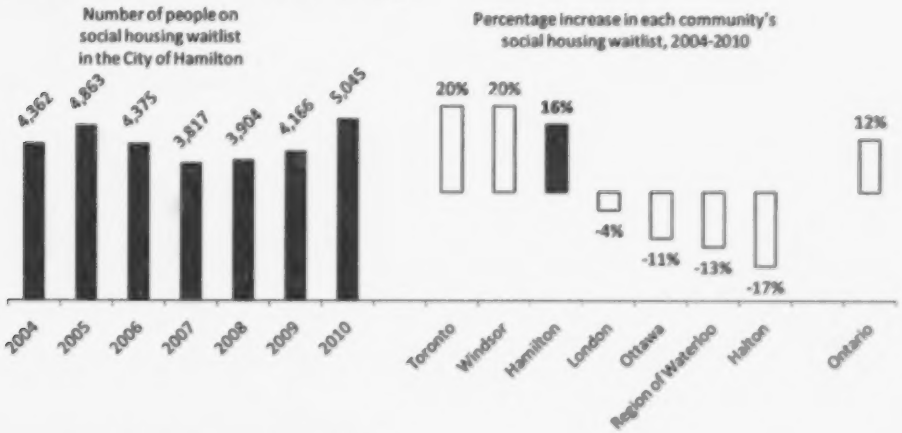
Chart 42. Renter households who are spending 30% or more of their income on shelter costs



Data source: 1996, 2001 and 2006 Censuses of Canada, Statistics Canada

One of the ways municipalities try to address the problems of housing affordability is through social housing. In Hamilton, there are more than 14,000 social housing units providing affordable housing to more than 30,000 residents. Almost half of the units are owned and managed by City Housing Hamilton, a non-profit corporation owned by the City of Hamilton. Access to Housing is the organization that manages the waitlist for the entire social housing portfolio in Hamilton. The waiting list for social housing has seen a large increase in the last few years, mainly due to the recession. Hamilton had a larger increase in its social housing waitlist than the provincial average in the 2004-2010 period (Chart 43).

Chart 43. Waiting lists for social housing



Data source: Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association

The province recently released its long-term affordable housing strategy. The legislative changes that are forthcoming will be helpful to many social housing tenants, especially in reducing the large amount of paperwork and subsequent rent increases that accompany even small increases in a person's income. But the strategy did not lay out any increases to funding for affordable housing. The City of Hamilton is currently developing a Housing and Homeless Action Plan with its community partners. One of the goals is to have community support on priorities within the sector to help decide where any new funding should be directed to best improve affordable housing and reduce homelessness.

Without any additional funding for social housing or related supports, the situation for the thousands of families and individuals in precarious housing is only getting more difficult. There will be continuing need for services that help people deal with the consequences of unstable and/or unaffordable housing, including mental health supports and bankruptcy and debt counseling.

12.0 CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

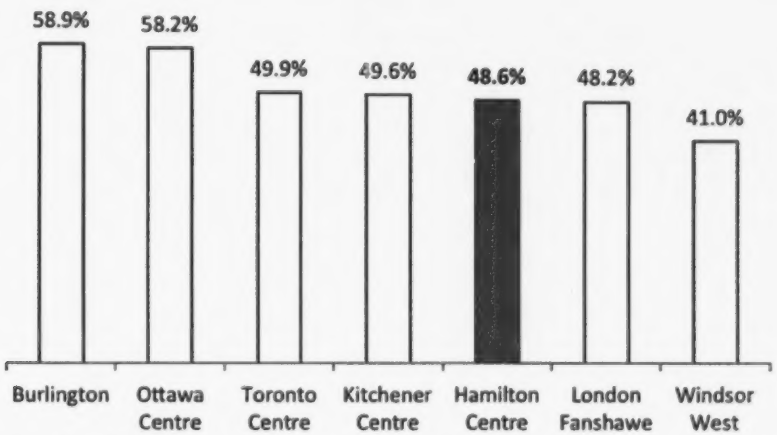
An important indicator of a community's health is the degree to which its citizens participate and engage in community activities and democratic structures. Two measures of civic engagement, voter turnout and charitable donations are included in this report.

12.1 Voter turnout

For this report we have chosen to examine the 2007 provincial election, which is the latest election for which data are available on a sub-neighborhood-level scale.

The City of Hamilton is comprised of five electoral districts (also known as ridings): Hamilton Centre, Hamilton East-Stoney Creek, Hamilton-Mountain, Ancaster-Flamborough-Dundas-Westdale, and the westernmost part of Niagara-Glanbrook. The combined overage voter turnout in these five ridings was 48.7%, lower than the provincial average of 52.1%. Examining the ridings that include the downtowns of the set of comparable cities, Hamilton-Centre's voter turnout of 48.6% is in 6th place, only higher than London-Fanshawe and Windsor-West (Chart 44).

Chart 44. Voter turnout rate, downtown ridings of selected communities, 2007 Ontario Provincial Election



Data source: Elections Ontario

Map 8 shows the distribution of voter turnout throughout the city's 1,500 polls in the 2007 election. In this map, we can see that the escarpment seems to divide the city when it comes to civic engagement. Those living just above the escarpment have voter turnout rates of sometimes 20-30 percentage points higher than the rates for the residents living just a few hundred metres below them in the lower city.

However, there are pockets of low voter turnout in almost all parts of the city, for example on the mountain, in Waterdown and pockets of Glanbrook and Stoney Creek. Throughout the lower city, within areas that have generally lower voter turnout rates, there are very small polls with much higher turnout. These small polls are for some individual apartment buildings, which due to their large number of units were assigned dedicated polling stations. There are usually two factors which drive up the voter turnout rate in these locations: 1) having a polling station in one's own building helps reluctant voters overcome their resistance to voting since they do not have to travel

to (and find) their polling location; 2) these buildings often have high proportion of seniors, who have the highest voter turnout of all the age groups.

Most of the polls with the lowest voter turnout rates are concentrated in the areas closes to the industrial areas in north and central-east Hamilton, areas that also have higher rates of poverty. As noted in the Hamilton Urban Core Community Health Centre's *No Community Stands Alone* report "there are many obstacles to civic participation and community involvement when you are poor."[24]

The general decline in voter turnout in Canada in the last two decades has most commonly been attributed to a marked disinterest in politics by younger generations. But the effect of rising social and income inequality has not received as much attention[25]. Lower voter participation among residents who are struggling on low incomes creates a negative feedback loop: our city's most vulnerable aren't represented at the tables where policies that affect them are discussed and civic and political leaders don't hear their voices when making decisions, then those on the margins feel that the political system does not reflect their priorities and they become more disenchanted.

The City of Hamilton's Human Services Planning's Demographic Profile offers the following analysis and recommendations about declining voter turnout:

> Voter turnout is linked to the level of civic engagement in a community. Strategies should be explored to not only increase the percentage of citizens who vote, but to reach out to marginalized communities within which the voter turn-out rates may be particularly low. Since political representatives (either federal/provincial/municipal) may not always be reflective of the diversity within the city, political parties might also wish to make extra efforts to be more inclusive when seeking candidates to run in elections or creating an environment where candidates from marginalized communities would be supported to run for office.[26]

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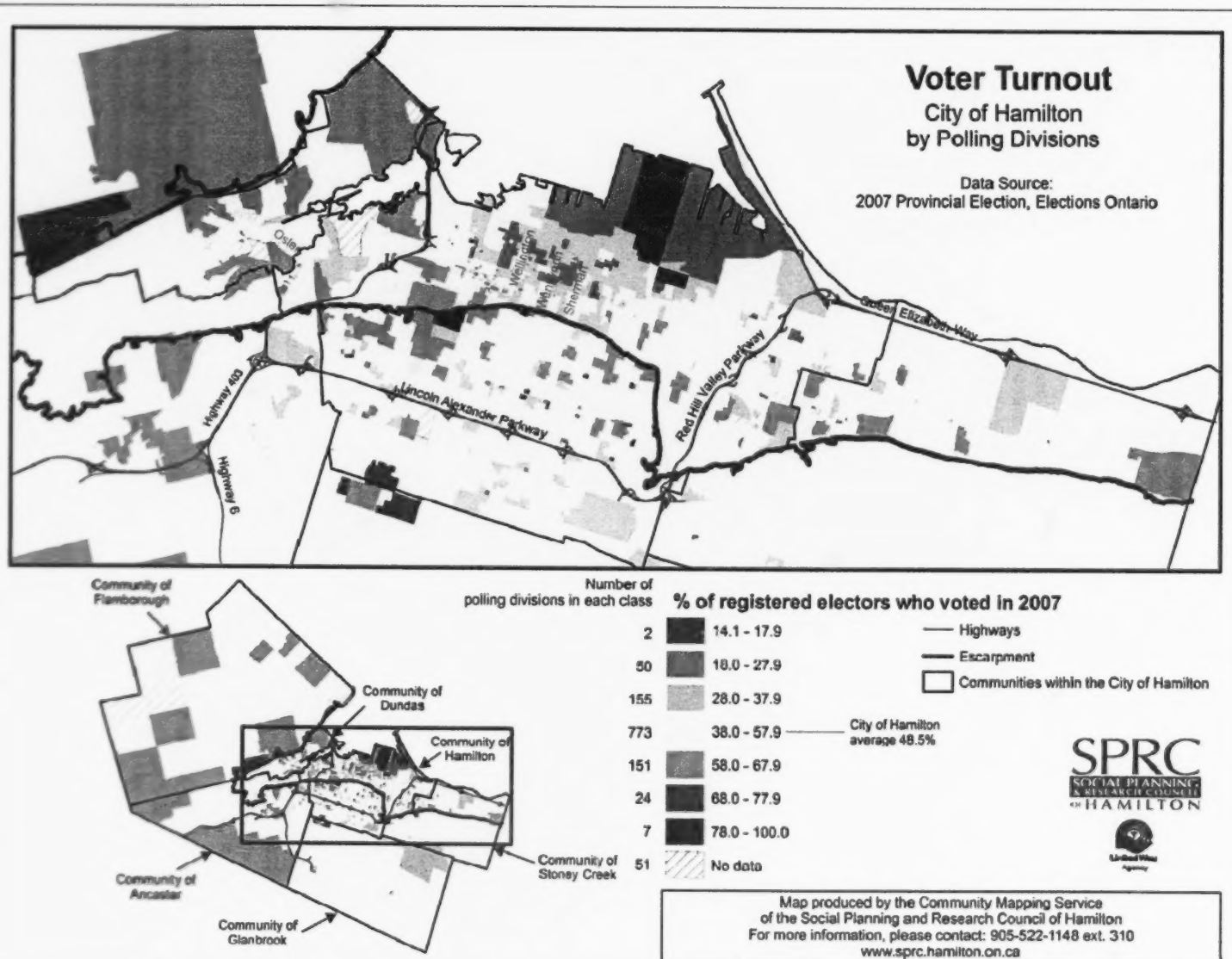
[24] Hamilton Urban Core Community Health Centre. *NO Community Stands ALONE: Highlights of the Community Roundtable Discussions.* http://www.hucchc.com/upload/campaign/NO_Community_Stands_ALONE.pdf

[25] Social Planning Network of Ontario. 2010. *Ontario's Social Landscape: Socio-demographic trends and conditions in communities across the province.* http://spno.ca/images/stories/pdf/reports/ontario-social-landscape-2010.pdf

[26] City of Hamilton. 2010. *The Playbook - A Framework for Human Services Planning in Hamilton: Technical Report #3 Demographic Profile.* http://hamilton.ca/HealthandSocialServices/SocialServices/humanservicesplan

Map 8.

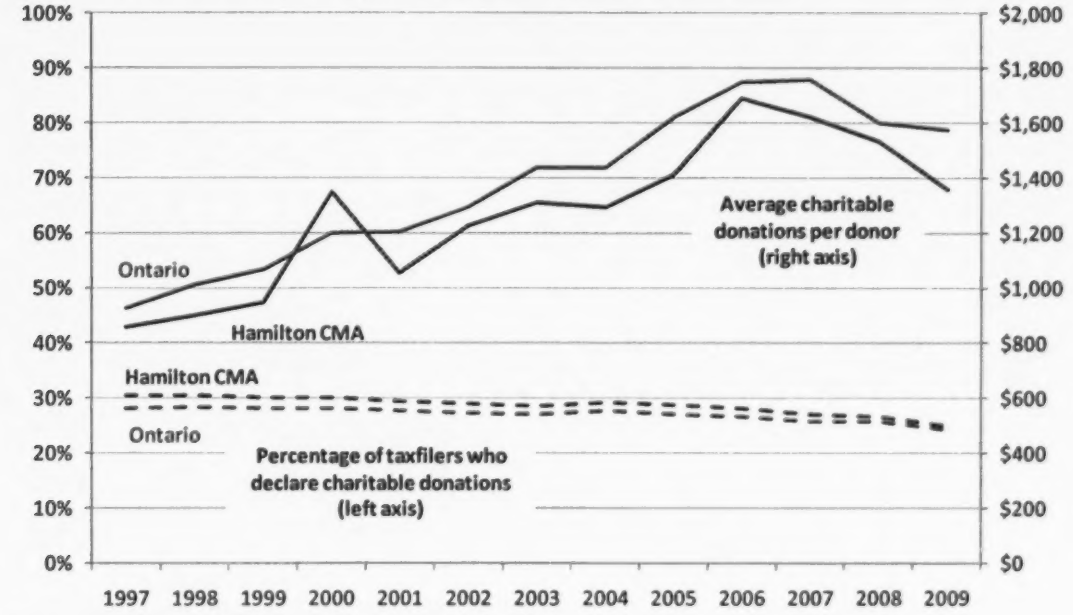

Voter Turnout
City of Hamilton
by Polling Divisions
Data Source:
2007 Provincial Election, Elections Ontario
Highway 403
Lincoln Alexander Parkway
Red Hill Valley Parkway
Queen Elizabeth Way
Highway 6
Community of Flamborough
Community of Dundas
Community of Hamilton
Community of Ancaster
Community of Glanbrook
Community of Stoney Creek
Number of polling divisions in each class
% of registered electors who voted in 2007
2 14.1 - 17.9
50 18.0 - 27.9
155 28.0 - 37.9
773 38.0 - 57.9
City of Hamilton average 48.5%
151 58.0 - 67.9
24 68.0 - 77.9
7 78.0 - 100.0
51 No data
Highways
Escarpment
Communities within the City of Hamilton
SPRC
SOCIAL PLANNING & RESEARCH COUNCIL of HAMILTON
Map produced by the Community Mapping Service
of the Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton
For more information, please contact: 905-522-1148 ext. 310
www.sprc.hamilton.on.ca

12.2 Charitable donations

Charitable donations are an important contributor to civic life and community services in Hamilton. In 2009, donors from Hamilton Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) (which includes Burlington and Grimsby) gave a combined $173 Million to charitable organizations.

The general trend in Ontario and in the Hamilton CMA is that the number of donors is decreasing, but the average donation is increasing (Chart 45). The Hamilton CMA has a slightly higher percentage of donors than Ontario, but the percentage of Hamilton CMA tax filers who declare charitable donations has decreased from 30.5% in 1997 to 25.0% in 2009. The decline in donors was occurring even before the last recession. The average donations in the Hamilton CMA are slightly lower than in Ontario, but have increased from $858 to $1356. The average donations decreased substantially during the recent economic downturn, with a 16% decrease in the Hamilton CMA and a 10% decrease across Ontario.

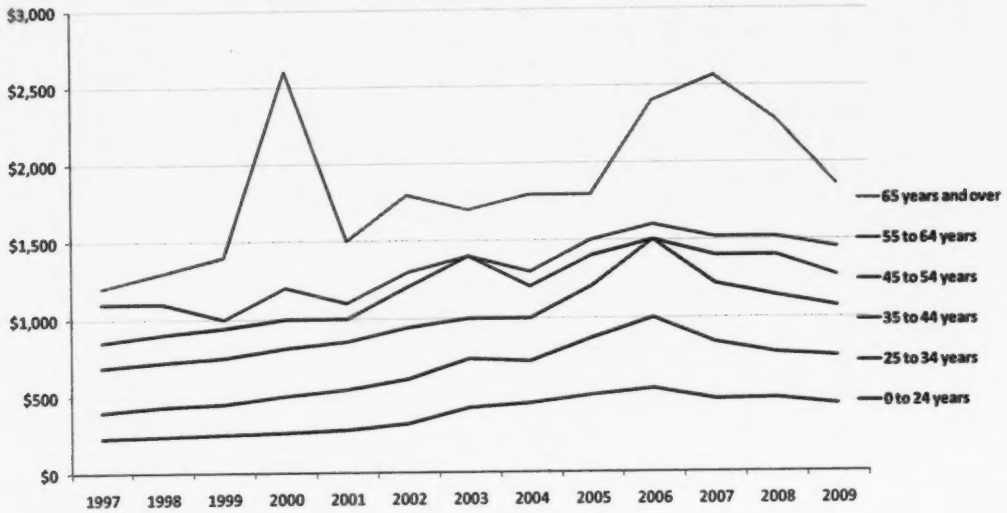
Chart 45. Donors and donations, Hamilton CMA and Ontario 1997-2009



Data source: Small Area Administrative Data, Statistics Canada

A breakdown of Hamilton CMA donors by age group shows that each successively older age group gives larger average amounts to charity (Chart 46). This corresponds to the fact that incomes generally increase with age, except for seniors. The very large donations from seniors are explained in part by gifts left for charities in a person's will (for example in the form of endowments). While the youngest age group (donors under 25 years old) gives the smallest amounts, this age group has seen the largest increase in donations, going from an average of $230 in 1997 to $440 in 2009, a 91% increase. This increase is larger than the Ontario-wide increase of 71% in this age group.

Chart 46. Charitable donors by age groups, Hamilton CMA and Ontario, 1997-2009



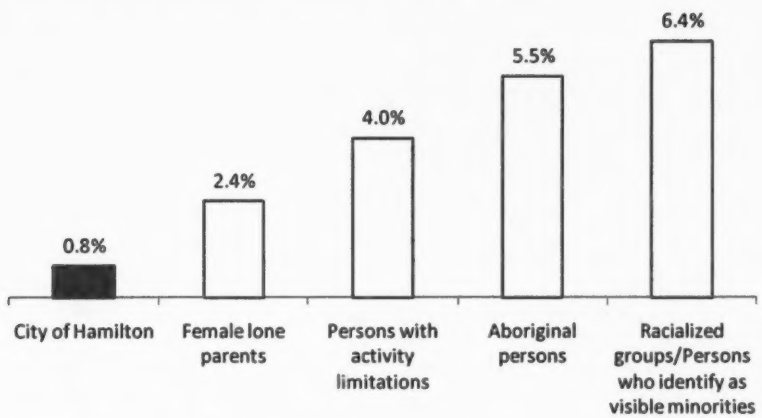
Data source: Small Area Administrative Data, Statistics Canada

13.0 CONCLUSION

This report has attempted to highlight some key trends in Hamilton's social landscape. Some trends are similar to challenges facing communities across the country, such as a growing senior population and a shrinking population of young children. These two trends in particular, however, are magnified in Hamilton as compared to our selected comparable communities, with the city having both the second largest proportion of seniors in its population and the second lowest proportion of young children. These factors combined with slowing immigration have meant that Hamilton has a low population growth, only higher than Toronto among our set of comparable communities. These demographic shifts with Hamilton's population highlight the need for improved planning with regards to infrastructure and services such as housing stock, schools, and transit, and programs such as immigration recruitment strategies. This is especially urgent for Hamilton if the city is to meet the targets for population and employment growth set by the province's *Places to Grow* strategy.

Though poverty rates in Hamilton declined overall between 1996 and 2006, this report has shown that many populations that experience the highest poverty rates are growing rapidly. These groups include Aboriginals, female lone parents, persons with disabilities, and visible minorities (Chart 47). The poverty rates for these groups are higher in Hamilton than the provincial average. In fact, seniors are the only group within Hamilton's population (investigated in this report) with a high growth rate that also has a lower than average poverty rate. These findings underscore the importance of the recent focus by municipal, social and business leaders on poverty reduction strategies in Hamilton.

Chart 47. Average annual growth rate of selected groups in the City of Hamilton compared to the overall annual population growth rate, 1996-2006



Data source: 1996 and 2006 Censuses of Canada, Statistics Canada

Many Hamiltonians often face challenges beyond insufficient income to live healthy lives and participate fully in society. These barriers include social exclusion, discrimination and racism, access to childcare, and the inaccessibility of our built environment. The disability and mental health indicators analyzed in this report are the only ones that show Hamilton ranked above all the other communities. This illustrates the need for services and infrastructure to be coordinated with the needs of this population in mind.

Inequities in health and civic participation by income are further challenges highlighted in this report that need to be addressed and rectified. Members of the city's groups often facing low income and social exclusion are not well represented in the Hamilton's leadership, in civic life, in business or in politics. **What can be done to change these dynamics?**

The City of Hamilton has proposed that an **Inclusion Lens** be broadly adopted to help reverse the current trajectory.

What is inclusivity? According to the City it is "generating the feeling and the reality of belonging... and taking deliberate steps to welcome, accept and value all individuals, understand reverse exclusionary practices, and create opportunities for people from marginalized groups to participate in the planning and delivery of services."

The City encourages the inclusion lens to be used to analyze all programs, services and practices to ensure they promote the social and economic inclusion of individual families and communities.

This inclusion lens must also be used in practices that engage residents in meaningful activities to gather feedback and become involved in decision-making. **Engagement activities** should be more than passive and informal and can take many more participatory and empowering forms (Table 1).

Table 1. Community Engagement Framework

Inclusivity Lens
PASSIVE (INFORM)
REACTIVE (Consult)
PARTICIPATORY (INVOLVE)
EMPOWERMENT (COLLABORATE)
LEADERSHIP (EMPOWER)
Citizens and organizations are informed of issues
Citizens and organizations provide input into planning priorities
Citizens and organizations influence planning priorities and decision-making
Citizens and organizations work together in shared planning and action
Citizens and organizations initiate and lead in issue identification, planning and action
Levels of Engagement

Taken from *The Playbook: A Framework for Human Services Planning in Hamilton, City of Hamilton (2010)*
http://www.hamilton.ca/HealthandSocialServices/SocialServices/HumanServicesPlan.htm

The City has started to show leadership in improving its own community engagement practices. A recent example has been the Citizens' Forum on Area Rating of Property Taxes. Citizens were chosen at random from property tax records to be invited to be members and then applicants were selected to ensure the composition of the board reflected at least in part the geographic and demographic diversity of the city. The Citizens' Forum engaged in resident consultation activities of their own. They grappled over the complex and contentious issue of which parts of the city should pay for what services and were able to develop recommendations by consensus. These recommendations were debated by City Council and formed the basis of the final decision.

The City's recent neighbourhood development focus presents an opportunity to continue to build inclusion and strengthen resident engagement in civic life.

These are important steps that the City is taking, and it is imperative that other organizations, businesses and leaders continue in this path. Inclusion and engagement are not easy solutions; they take time, effort and investment. But they are worthwhile because they hold the promise that few other strategies can deliver: *for the people by all the people*.

As is common when investigating social trends, this report has uncovered more questions than answers. With further community consultations and analysis of these trends, the SPRC will continue this work to help find answers and solutions to the challenges highlighted in this report. We hope that this report is a useful starting point for social service agencies, community groups, civic institutions, city leaders and citizens for their planning purposes.

APPENDIX: COMMUNITY PROFILE AND CENSUS TRENDS DATA TABLES

Census Trends, City of Hamilton

Prepared by the Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton
For the United Way of Bulington and Greater Hamilton

Topic	Subtopic	1996	2001	2006	Trendline
Population	Total population count	467,799	490,268	504,559	
Age and sex	% of the population aged 0 to 14 years	20	19.3	17.8	
	% of the population aged 15 to 64 years	65.8	66.4	67.2	
	% of the population aged 65 years and over	14.2	14.3	14.9	
	Median age	35.9	37.6	39.6	
	Ratio of age groups 0 to 14 years to 65 years and over	1.4	1.3	1.2	
Marital status	% of the population aged 15 years and over who are single (never legally married)	26.1	27	27.8	
	% of the population aged 15 years and over living in a couple (married or common-law)	58.4	57.8	56.6	
Families and households	% of couples (married and common-law) with children (of any age)	58.4	58.5	57.7	
	% of couples (married and common-law) with at least one child under 25 years of age	52.6	52	50.8	
	Total private households	178,425	188,155	194,455	
	% of one-person households	25.7	26.6	26.6	
	% of households containing a couple with children	31.1	30.3	29.3	
	% of households containing a couple without children	27.6	27.5	27.6	
	Average household size	2.6	2.6	2.5	
	Median household income	50,422	53,667	55,312	
	Median economic family income	63,156	67,753	69,566	
	% of economic families receiving government transfers	88.7	83.6	85.8	
	% of economic family income from government transfers	13	10.5	10.6	
	Median economic family government transfers	4,225	3,045	4,158	
	Median income for persons 15 years and over not in economic families	21,224	22,697	24,969	
	% of persons not in economic families in low income before tax	48.4	46.2	41.6	
	% of economic families in low income before tax	18.6	16.2	14.3	
Housing and shelter costs	Total occupied private dwellings occupied by usual residents	178,425	188,155	194,460	
	% of occupied private dwellings owned	62.9	65.2	68.3	
	% of occupied private dwellings rented	37.1	34.8	31.7	
	% of occupied private dwellings that are band housing	0	0	0	
	% of occupied private dwellings requiring major repair	8.2	7.7	7.4	
	% of occupied private dwellings constructed in the last 10 years	13.9	10.6	10.5	
	% of occupied private dwellings with more than one person per room	1.1	1.1	1.2	
Language	% of population whose mother tongue is English only	75.5	74	73	
	% of population whose mother tongue is French only	1.4	1.4	1.3	
	% of the population whose mother tongue is a non-official language only	21.7	23.3	24.5	
	% of the population who speak English and/or French most often at home	88	87.7	87.5	
	% of the population who only speak a non-official language most often at home	11	12.3	12.5	
	% of the population with knowledge of an official language	98.2	98.2	98.3	
	% of the population with knowledge of both official languages	6	6.2	6	
Mobility and migration	% who lived at same address 5 years ago	60.4	59.5	62.6	
	% who moved within the same census subdivision (CSD)	24.3	25.9	24.6	
	% who moved within the province from a different census subdivision (CSD)	11.2	9.2	8	
	% who moved from a different province/territory	1.1	1.4	1.2	
	% who lived outside Canada	3	3.9	3.6	
Immigration and citizenship	% immigrants	24.6	24.7	25.4	
	% recent immigrants (arrived in last 5 years)	3.3	3.3	3.3	
	% Canadian citizens	94.3	94	94	
Visible minorities	% visible minorities	9	10.9	13.6	
Aboriginal peoples	% reporting Aboriginal origins	1.92	2.21	2.72	
Labour	Employment rate	57.2	59.6	60.4	
	Employment rate for males	63.6	65.5	65.7	
	Employment rate for females	51.2	54	55.5	
	Participation rate	62.9	63.7	64.7	
	Participation rate for males	69.8	70	70.2	
	Participation rate for females	56.4	57.7	59.5	
	Unemployment rate	9.1	6.4	6.5	
	Unemployment rate for males	8.9	6.5	6.4	
	Unemployment rate for females	9.3	6.4	6.6	
	% male full-year; full-time workers	42.6	45.9	45.1	
	% female full-year; full-time workers	25.7	29	30	
Unpaid work	% of males reporting any hour(s) of unpaid work	87.4	87.8	89.5	
	% of females reporting any hour(s) of unpaid work	93.2	92.7	93.3	
Place of work and commuting to work	% working at home	5.2	5.3	5.5	
	Travel to work: % by car; truck or van as driver	76.3	76.9	74.4	
	Travel to work: % by car; truck or van as passenger	7.6	7.4	9	
	Travel to work: % using public transit	8.7	8.4	9.3	
	Travel to work: % walking or biking	6.7	6.6	6.3	
Income and earnings	Median total income for males	32,944	34,782	34,462	
	Median total income for females	18,406	19,214	20,567	
	Median earnings for males working full year; full time	48,836	50,491	50,429	
	Median earnings for females working full year; full time	35,123	34,788	36,969	
	% of persons in low income before tax	22	20	18.1	

For more information please contact Sara Mayo, Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton
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Data sources: Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 1996, 2001 and 2006.
Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 92-596-XWE. Ottawa. Released December 4, 2007.

Demographic Profile (2006), City of Hamilton
Prepared by the Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton
For the United Way of Bulington and Greater Hamilton

	City of Hamilton		Ontario
Characteristics	Total		
Population in 2006	504,559		
Population in 2001	490,268		
Age characteristics			
Total population	504,560		
0 to 4 years	26,940	5%	6%
5 to 9 years	29,410	6%	6%
10 to 14 years	33,535	7%	7%
15 to 19 years	34,895	7%	7%
20 to 24 years	34,385	7%	7%
25 to 29 years	30,330	6%	6%
30 to 34 years	30,620	6%	7%
35 to 39 years	34,760	7%	7%
40 to 44 years	41,230	8%	8%
45 to 49 years	40,840	8%	8%
50 to 54 years	36,125	7%	7%
55 to 59 years	31,865	6%	6%
60 to 64 years	24,225	5%	5%
65 to 69 years	19,740	4%	4%
70 to 74 years	17,855	4%	3%
75 to 79 years	16,210	3%	3%
80 to 84 years	12,615	3%	2%
85 years and over	8,975	2%	2%
Median age of the population	39.6		39
% of the population aged 15 and over	82.2		81.8
Common-law status characteristics			
Total population 15 years and over	414,670		
Not in a common-law relationship	386,360	93%	93%
In a common-law relationship	28,310	7%	7%
Legal marital status characteristics			
Total population 15 years and over	414,670		
Never legally married (single)	132,960	32%	32%
Legally married (and not separated)	206,235	50%	52%
Separated; but still legally married	15,035	4%	3%
Divorced	31,250	8%	7%
Widowed	29,190	7%	6%

	City of Hamilton		Ontario
Occupied private dwelling characteristics			
Total private dwellings occupied by usual residents	194,455		
Number of owned dwellings	132,785	68%	71%
Number of rented dwellings	61,675	32%	29%
Dwellings requiring major repair - as a % of total occupied private dwellings	7.4		6.6
Selected family characteristics			
Total number of census families	140,805		
Number of married-couple families	101,220	72%	74%
Number of common-law-couple families	14,500	10%	10%
Number of lone-parent families	25,085	18%	16%
Number of female lone-parent families	20,795	15%	13%
Number of male lone-parent families	4,295	3%	3%
Median income in 2005 - All census families ($)	$66,810		$69,156
Median income in 2005 - Married-couple families ($)	$76,296		$77,243
Median income in 2005 - Common-law-couple families ($)	$61,478		$66,525
Median income in 2005 - Lone-parent families ($)	$36,844		$38,448
Median income in 2005 - Female lone-parent families ($)	$35,131		$36,496
Median income in 2005 - Male lone-parent families ($)	$51,358		$50,339
Selected household characteristics			
Total private households	194,455		
Households containing a couple (married or common-law) with children	56,930	29%	31%
Households containing a couple (married or common-law) without children	53,725	28%	28%
One-person households	51,730	27%	24%
Other household types	32,070	16%	16%
Average household size	2.5		2.6
Median income in 2005 - All private households ($)	$55,312		$60,455
Total Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal identity population	497,400		
Aboriginal identity population	7,625	2%	2%
Non-Aboriginal identity population	489,770	98%	98%

	City of Hamilton		Ontario
Educational attainment			
Total population 15 years and over	407,590		
No certificate; diploma or degree	102,180	25%	22%
High school certificate or equivalent	111,225	27%	27%
Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma	38,110	9%	8%
College; CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma	79,525	20%	18%
University certificate or diploma below the bachelor level	13,290	3%	4%
University certificate; diploma or degree	63,255	16%	20%
Total population aged 15 to 24	69,095		
No certificate; diploma or degree	27,655	40%	40%
High school certificate or equivalent	26,650	39%	39%
Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma	1,485	2%	2%
College; CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma	7,925	11%	10%
University certificate or diploma below the bachelor level	1,015	1%	2%
University certificate; diploma or degree	4,365	6%	7%
Total population aged 25 to 34	60,695		
No certificate; diploma or degree	6,190	10%	9%
High school certificate or equivalent	15,620	26%	24%
Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma	4,730	8%	6%
College; CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma	16,495	27%	24%
University certificate or diploma below the bachelor level	2,235	4%	4%
University certificate; diploma or degree	15,420	25%	33%
Total population aged 35 to 64	207,550		
No certificate; diploma or degree	35,955	17%	15%
High school certificate or equivalent	54,565	26%	25%
Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma	23,280	11%	10%
College; CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma	47,840	23%	21%
University certificate or diploma below the bachelor level	7,820	4%	5%
University certificate; diploma or degree	38,090	18%	24%
Total population aged 25 to 64	268,245		
No certificate; diploma or degree	42,145	16%	14%
High school certificate or equivalent	70,185	26%	25%
Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma	28,010	10%	9%
College; CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma	64,335	24%	22%
University certificate or diploma below the bachelor level	10,055	4%	5%
University certificate; diploma or degree	53,510	20%	26%
Location of study			
Total population 15 years and over	407,590		
No postsecondary certificate; diploma or degree	213,405	52%	49%
Postsecondary certificate; diploma or degree	194,185	48%	51%
Inside Canada	160,360	83%	78%
Outside Canada	33,820	17%	22%

	City of Hamilton		Ontario
Labour force activity			
Total population 15 years and over	407,590		
In the labour force	263,600		
Employed	246,340		
Unemployed	17,250		
Not in the labour force	143,995		
Participation rate	64.7		67.1
Employment rate	60.4		62.8
Unemployment rate	6.5		6.4
Occupation			
Total experienced labour force 15 years and over	258,755		
A Management occupations	23,080	9%	10%
B Business; finance and administration occupations	42,615	16%	19%
C Natural and applied sciences and related occupations	13,985	5%	7%
D Health occupations	16,950	7%	5%
E Occupations in social science; education; government service and religion	22,050	9%	8%
F Occupations in art; culture; recreation and sport	6,530	3%	3%
G Sales and service occupations	63,870	25%	24%
H Trades; transport and equipment operators and related occupations	44,205	17%	14%
I Occupations unique to primary industry	6,295	2%	3%
J Occupations unique to processing; manufacturing and utilities	19,175	7%	7%
Industry			
Total experienced labour force 15 years and over	258,755		
Agriculture and other resource-based industries	5,465	2%	3%
Construction	17,485	7%	6%
Manufacturing	42,525	16%	14%
Wholesale trade	12,020	5%	5%
Retail trade	29,600	11%	11%
Finance and real estate	14,260	6%	7%
Health care and social services	30,295	12%	9%
Educational services	20,340	8%	7%
Business services	42,365	16%	20%
Other services	44,400	17%	19%
Place of work status			
Total employed labour force 15 years and over	246,340		
Worked at home	13,600	6%	7%
No fixed workplace address	24,395	10%	10%
Worked at usual place	207,450	84%	83%
Worked in census subdivision (municipality) of residence	145,485	70%	60%
Worked in a different census division (county)	61,610	30%	24%
Worked in a different province	360	0%	1%

	City of Hamilton		Ontario
Visible minority population characteristics			
Total population	497,395		
Total visible minority population	67,845	14%	23%
Chinese	9,300	14%	21%
South Asian	14,765	22%	29%
Black	13,900	20%	17%
Filipino	4,040	6%	7%
Latin American	5,585	8%	5%
Southeast Asian	5,995	9%	4%
Arab	5,390	8%	4%
West Asian	3,450	5%	4%
Korean	1,540	2%	3%
Japanese	985	1%	1%
Visible minority; n.i.e.	1,045	2%	2%
Multiple visible minority	1,845	3%	3%
Not a visible minority	429,555	86%	77%
Income in 2005			
Persons 15 years and over with income (counts)	388,490		
Median income - Persons 15 years and over ($)	$26,353		$27,258
Median income after tax - Persons 15 years and over ($)	$23,865		$24,604
Composition of total income (100%)	100		100
Earnings - As a % of total income	75.4		77.4
Government transfers - As a % of total income	12		9.8
Other money - As a % of total income	12.6		12.9
Income status of all persons in private households (counts)	495,450		
% in low income before tax - All persons	18.1		14.7
% in low income before tax - Persons less than 18 years of age	23.6		18

Data source: Statistics Canada; 2006 Census of Population.
Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 92-591-XWE. Ottawa. Released March 13 2007.